

AVENGERS vs X-men®

MARVEL

VS

ROUND 6



HICKMAN
COIPEL
MORALES
MARTIN

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AVS X

ROUND 6

THE PHOENIX FORCE HAS ARRIVED! IN A BATTLE WITHIN THE BLUE AREA OF THE MOON, THE AVENGERS FOUGHT TO PREVENT THE ANNIHILATION OF THE WORLD WHILE THE X-MEN, BELIEVING THE PHOENIX TO REPRESENT THE RESURRECTION OF THE MUTANT RACE THROUGH THEIR MESSIAH, HOPE, HELD THEIR GROUND AGAINST EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES.

BUILDING A GIGANTIC PHOENIX KILLER SUIT OF ARMOR, IRON MAN ATTEMPTED TO DISPERSE THE PHOENIX FORCE BEFORE IT COULD REACH EARTH. HOWEVER, WHEN STARK FIRED, THE COSMIC ENTITY WAS FRAGMENTED AND ITS ENERGIES ENTERED FIVE X-MEN INSTEAD: CYCLOPS, MAGIK, COLOSSUS, EMMA FROST, AND NAMOR!

THE GREATLY EMPOWERED PHOENIX FIVE HAVE TAKEN HOPE AND RETURNED TO EARTH...



**JASON AARON, BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS, ED BRUBAKER,
MATT FRACTION AND JONATHAN HICKMAN**

STORY

**JONATHAN
HICKMAN**

SCRIPT

**OLIVIER
COIPEL**
PENCILS

**MARK
MORALES**
INKS

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MARTIN**
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**CHRIS
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BLACK PANTHER



IRON MAN



BEAST



WOLVERINE



MOCKINGBIRD



THE VISION



BLACK WIDOW



THOR



HAWKEYE



SCARLET WITCH



LEI KUNG

THE PHOENIX FIVE



CYCLOPS



EMMA FROST



COLOSSUS



MAGIK



NAMOR



PROFESSOR X



SUNSPOT



PSYLOCKE



ICEMAN



CANNONBALL



GAMBIT



PRIMAL



VELOCIDAD



GLOB HERMAN



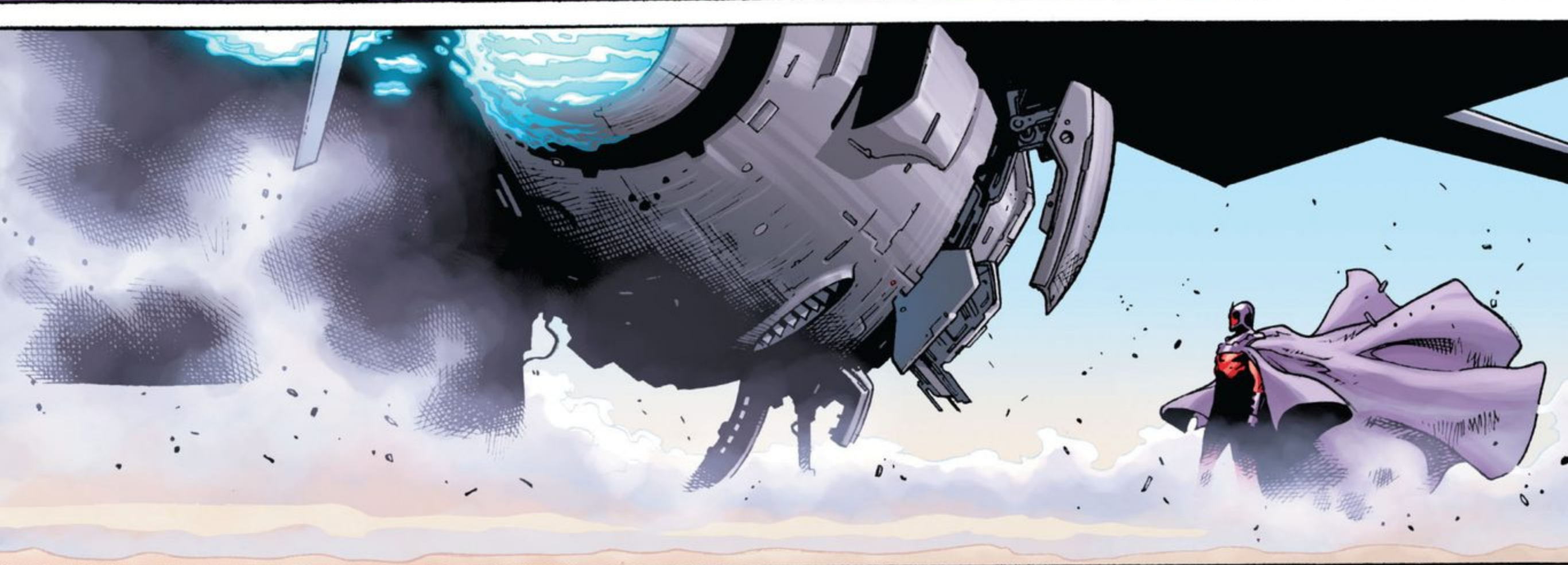
TRANSONIC



HOPE

X-MEN

TEN DAYS LATER.
UTOPIA.



HELLO,
ERIK.

CHARLES.

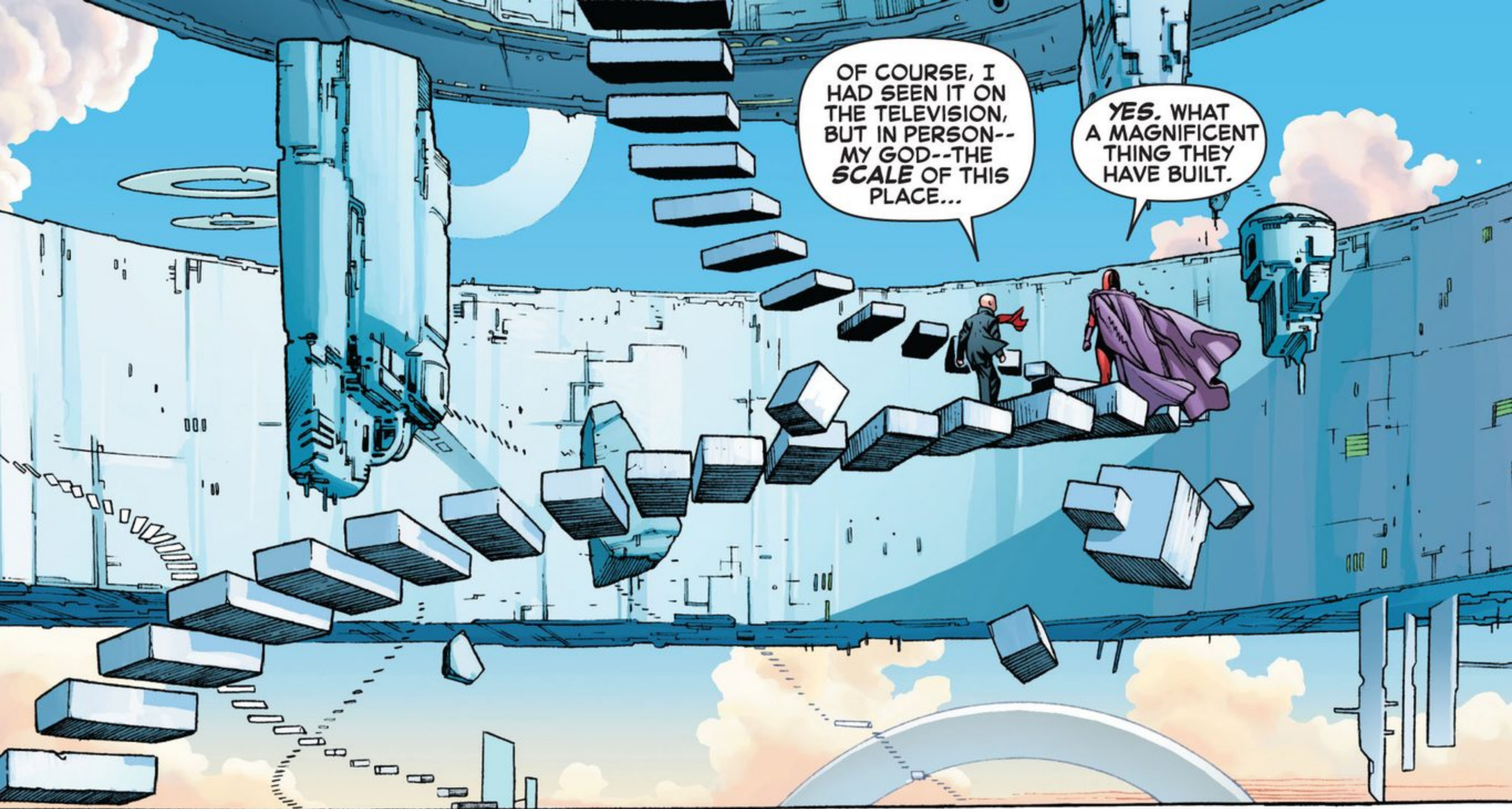
IT'S GOOD
TO SEE YOU,
OLD FRIEND.

WE'VE BEEN
EXPECTING
YOU...





WELCOME TO
UTOPIA.

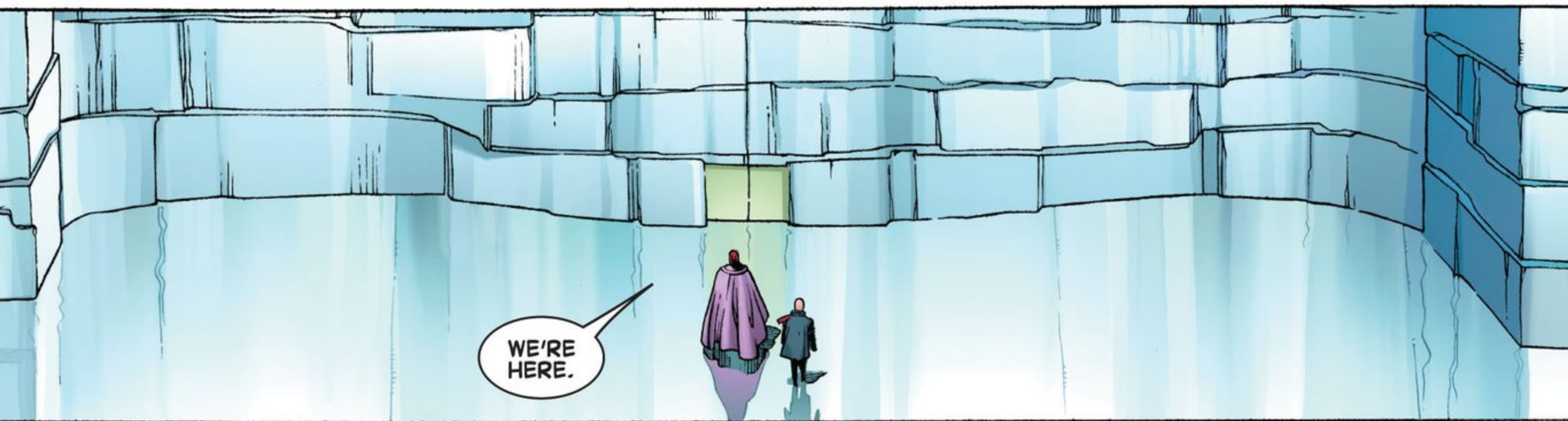


OF COURSE, I HAD SEEN IT ON THE TELEVISION, BUT IN PERSON-- MY GOD--THE SCALE OF THIS PLACE...

YES. WHAT A MAGNIFICENT THING THEY HAVE BUILT.



GREAT DEEDS BY THE GREATEST OF MEN...



WE'RE HERE.



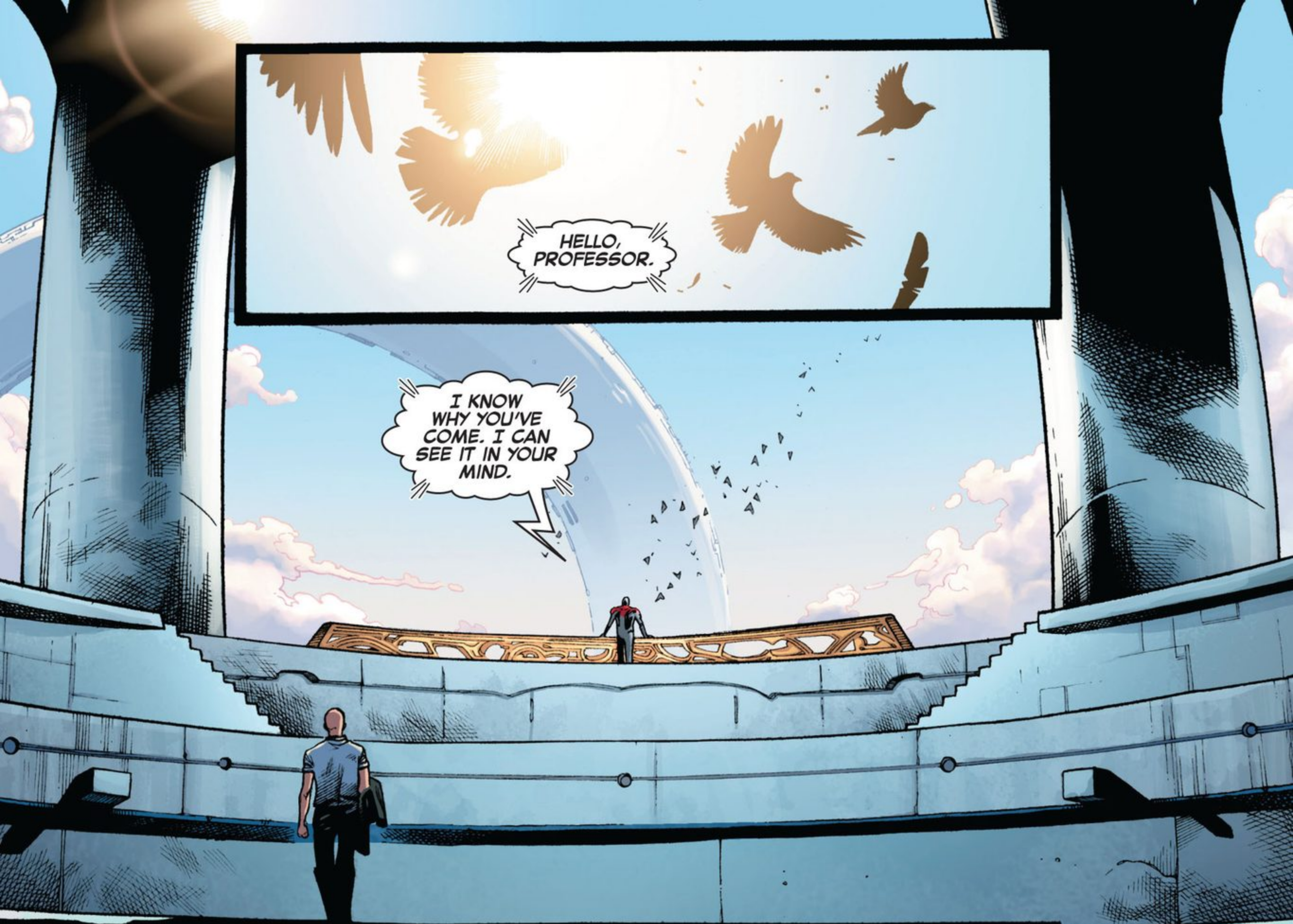
IT DOESN'T SEEM SO LONG AGO THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO THINK OF THEM AS *JUST CHILDREN*...AND OURS AT THAT.

I STILL DO.



YOU *SHOULDN'T*. THEY'VE CHANGED, CHARLES.

HE'S CHANGED... AND HE'S RIGHT THROUGH THERE.



HELLO,
PROFESSOR.

I KNOW
WHY YOU'VE
COME. I CAN
SEE IT IN YOUR
MIND.

THEN I'M SURE
YOU UNDERSTAND
MY CONCERNS
PERFECTLY.

THE POWER
YOU'RE WIELDING...
IT UNNERVES THE
WORLD.

PEOPLE ARE
AFRAID.

YOU ALWAYS
TOLD ME WE
SHOULD NEVER
FEAR TOMORROW,
PROFESSOR.

THIS
IS A NEW
DAY.

YOU DON'T NEED THE
VISOR ANYMORE, DO
YOU, SCOTT?

NO.

THEN
WHY WEAR
IT?

ONCE, A GREAT MAN
TAUGHT ME THE VALUE
OF HAVING A SINGULAR
VISION...

OF SEEING
THE WORLD AS IT
COULD BE.

I WOULD
NEVER WANT
TO LOSE THAT,
CHARLES.

THIS IS
NOT WHAT I
MEANT.

I KNOW...
IT'S SOMETHING
BETTER.



RIGHT NOW, WE
ARE REMAKING THE
WORLD...TRANSFORMING
IT INTO A BETTER PLACE
FOR ALL LIVING
THINGS.

WHERE IT WAS
ONCE BARREN, IT
BLOOMS.

WHERE THERE
WAS HUNGER,
THERE WILL NOW
BE A FEAST.

**THE HORN
OF AFRICA.**

**THE TAYMYR
PENINSULA.**



THERE WILL BE
NO MORE THIRST,
AS ANY MAN CAN
DRINK FROM OUR
NEW SPRING...

THE ALEUTIAN TRENCH.



AND ENERGY,
THERE WILL BE
ENERGY...BOUNDLESS,
LIMITLESS...AND
FREE.

THEY WILL
NOT FEAR US,
PROFESSOR...
THEY WILL
THANK US.

**THE GOBI
DESERT.**

THERE
WILL STILL BE
FALLOUT.

OF COURSE.
OLD WAYS OPPOSE
CHANGE. MOST
WILL BEND...

REMEMBER
WHAT YOU TAUGHT
US, PROFESSOR, THEY
WILL CHANGE. MANKIND
WILL ACCEPT THE
FUTURE.

I BELIEVE
THAT. I ALWAYS
HAVE.

I KNOW...BUT
NOT LIKE THIS.
IT'S CHEATING...
IT HAS COST
NOTHING.

COST
NOTHING?

NO, PROFESSOR...
WE HAVE PAID A HIGH
PRICE FOR FAR TOO
LONG...

NOW, THE
REAL WORLD
IS MOLDED TO
OUR SLIGHTEST
WHIM.

REALITY
ITSELF...WHAT
WE WANT IT
TO BE.

DON'T YOU
SEE? THE DAY
YOU LONGED
FOR HAS
ARRIVED...

HERE IS
YOUR DREAM,
CHARLES...

I HAVE
GIVEN IT
TO YOU.



IT'S
HAPPENED
AGAIN.

AVENGERS TOWER.
TWO DAYS LATER.



IS
EVERYONE
ALL RIGHT?

MUCH
BETTER THAN
WE SHOULD
BE...

WHY DON'T
YOU WALK ME
THROUGH
IT.

SURE...

WE WERE ON THE
WAY BACK FROM
DEALING WITH THAT
ROGUE HYDRA NEST
IN HELSINKI WHEN
SOMEONE TRIGGERED
A DORMANT NATO
ALERT BEACON IN
THE BALTICS.

TURNS OUT
THOSE THINGS
ARE POWERED
BY A HIGH-YIELD
DYNAMO...



"WHICH IS JUST THE
KIND OF THING A ZZZAX
WOULD USE IF IT HAD
RECENTLY NESTED.

"WE HAD NO IDEA
WHAT WE WERE
WALKING INTO,
CAP..."



"THE **ELECTRIC**
LEGION
OVERWHELMED
US.



"I THOUGHT
WE WERE
DONE FOR..."



"AND THEN...
THEN..."



THEN
THE X-MEN
SHOWED
UP.



"X-MAN. JUST
ONE. **COLOSSUS**."

"HE WALKED OUT
OF THE **SIEGE**
COURAGEOUS LIKE
A METAL GOD..."

"HE WALKED
OUT AND
SAVED US."



WELL, **GOOD**. I ASSUME HE WAS ABLE TO DEFEAT THE LEGION, BUT WERE YOU ABLE TO GET SOME IDEA OF WHAT THE UPPER LEVELS OF HIS POWERS ARE?

WAS THERE ANY SHOW OF WEAKNESS WHEN HE WAS FIGHTING... DID HE--

MY HANDS STARTED BURNING AS SOON AS HE SHOWED UP, CAP... BUT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND...

THERE WASN'T A FIGHT.

EXCUSE ME?



"THEY JUST... TALKED IT OUT."



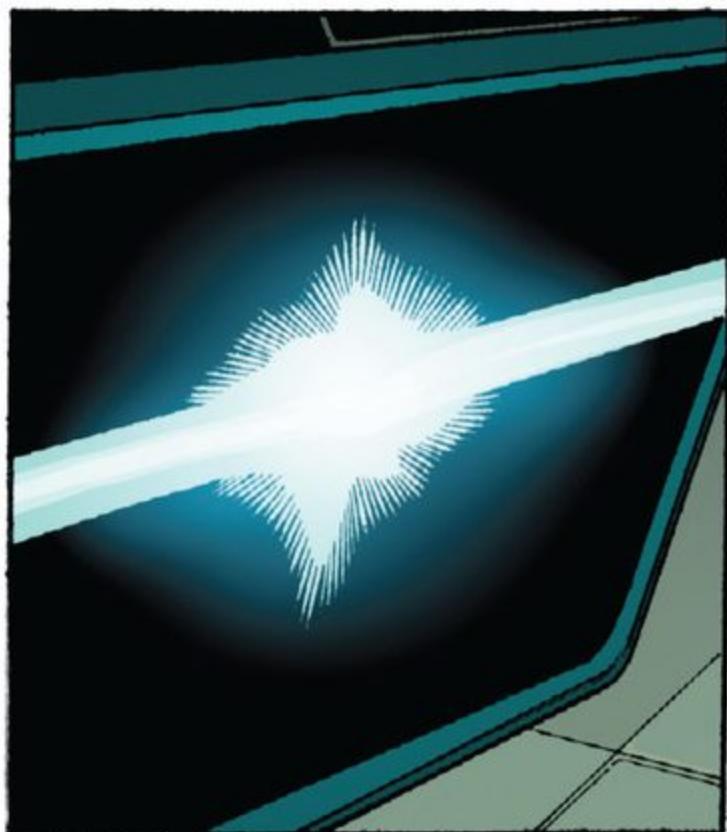
EXACTLY WHAT WAS SAID, DANNY?

NO IDEA. I DON'T SPEAK ELECTRIC...BUT THE END RESULT WAS THE LEGION AGREEING TO FUNCTION AS THE POWER GRID FOR A LARGE PORTION OF EASTERN EUROPE.

MORE **FREE** MUTANT ENERGY, I GUESS...**NO MESS**. EVERYTHING WORKED OUT FINE, CAP.

OKAY... OKAY...

BE CAREFUL AND WE'LL TALK MORE WHEN YOU GET HOME.



EVERYTHING WORKED OUT FINE.

SEE, THERE'S A SLIGHT VARIATION IN THE PHOENIX'S TELEMETRY AS IT APPROACHED EARTH.

SEVERAL. MICROSCOPIC CORRECTIONS, I'M SURE.

YES, YES...AS I SAID. A NON-STATIONARY TARGET WOULD--

I'M TELLIN' YOU, IT WAS HOPE. WE WERE ON THE MOVE.

EXCUSE ME, EVERYONE...

...WE'VE HAD ANOTHER PHOENIX ENCOUNTER.

DANNY, LUKE AND JESSICA HAD A RUN-IN WITH COLOSSUS IN ESTONIA.

OH MY...

THEY OKAY? PETEY DIDN'T...?

NO, EVERYONE'S FINE...

AND THE NEW, CHEAPEST ENERGY SOURCE ON THE PLANET IS A SUPER VILLAIN, WHO KNEW?

ACTUALLY, I CAME UP WITH THAT IDEA YEARS AG--

NOT THE POINT, HANK.

YOU'VE HAD A WEEK, I NEED A PLAN OF ACTION.

GIVE ME THE BEST YOU'VE GOT.

OUR BEST?

GIVEN OUR CURRENT POSITION, DO WE KNOW DOING *SOMETHING* IS BETTER THAN DOING *NOTHING*?

AND WHAT HAVE THEY DONE WRONG? WHO ARE WE TO JUDGE? HAVE ANY OF US ARGUED THOR IS TOO POWERFUL TO BE TRUSTED?

TOO MUCH DANCIN' AROUND WHAT'S NECESSARY. WHAT WE NEED IS SOMETHING LETHAL.

THAT'S OUR ONLY--

ENOUGH.

I'VE GOT A FEW THINGS-- AUGMENTED BATTLE SUITS AND A MODIFIED VERSION OF THE PHOENIX-KILLER WEAPON.

BUT MY CONCERN WITH THE LATTER REMAINS SPLINTERING THE FORCE MORE--FURTHER MULTIPLYING THE PROBLEM.

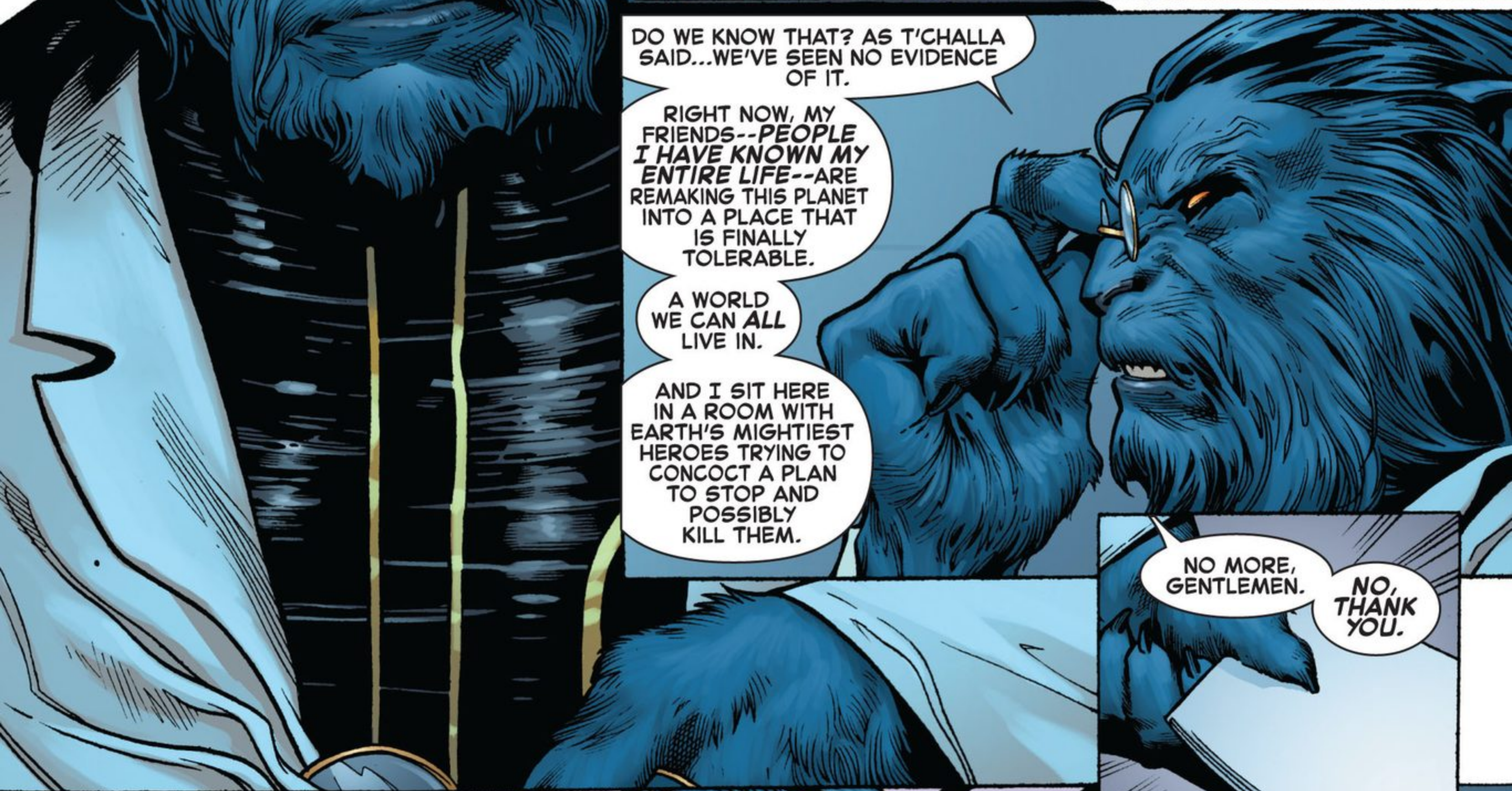


WHAT ARE WE DOING?

PLANNING FOR THE WORST.

STOP PRETENDIN' YOU DON'T KNOW HOW THIS ENDS, HANK...

EVERYTHING GOES DARK.



DO WE KNOW THAT? AS T'CHALLA SAID...WE'VE SEEN NO EVIDENCE OF IT.

RIGHT NOW, MY FRIENDS--*PEOPLE I HAVE KNOWN MY ENTIRE LIFE--*ARE REMAKING THIS PLANET INTO A PLACE THAT IS FINALLY TOLERABLE.

A WORLD WE CAN ALL LIVE IN.

AND I SIT HERE IN A ROOM WITH EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES TRYING TO CONCOCT A PLAN TO STOP AND POSSIBLY KILL THEM.

NO MORE, GENTLEMEN.

NO, THANK YOU.



WHERE YOU THINK YOU'RE GOIN', HANK?

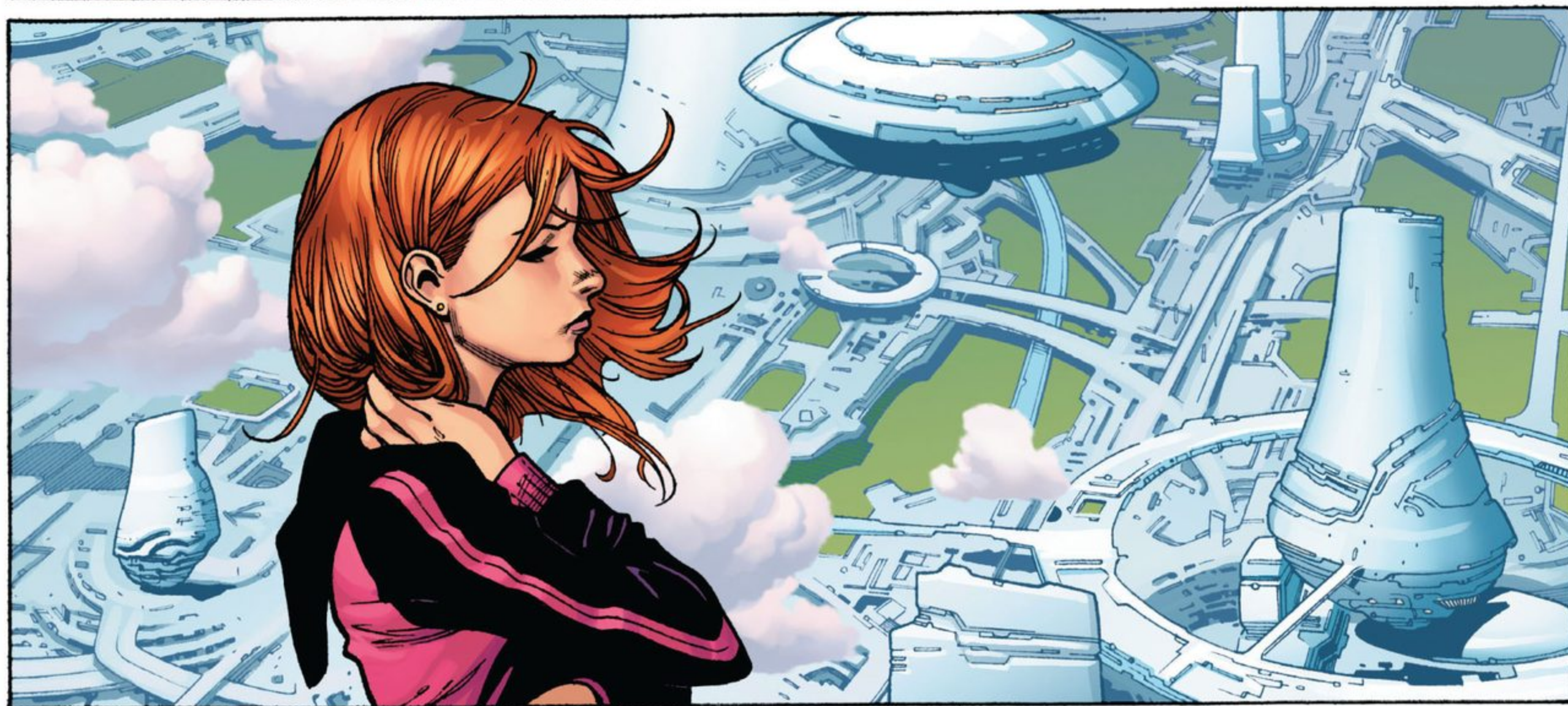
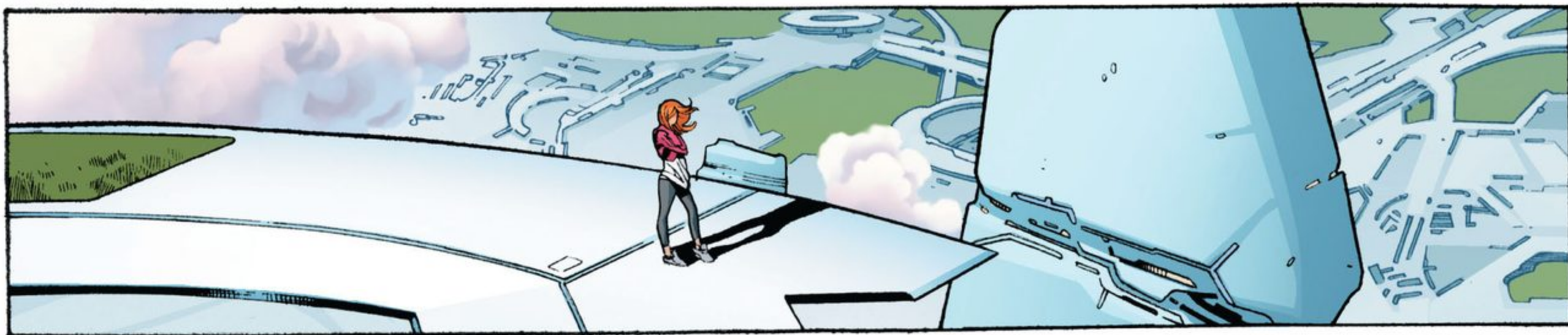


NOWHERE, MY FRIEND...

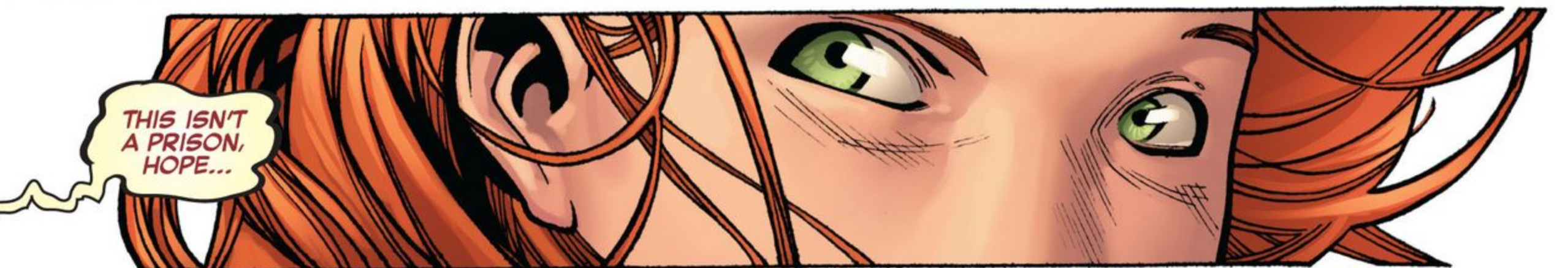


MORE AND MORE EACH DAY IT LOOKS LIKE YOU AND I HAVE NO PLACE TO CALL HOME.

UTOPIA.



THIS ISN'T
A PRISON,
HOPE...



AS I HAVE
TOLD YOU MANY
TIMES SINCE YOU
WOKE UP...

IF YOU'RE
UNHAPPY, YOU
CAN LEAVE
ANYTIME
YOU LIKE.





I CAN'T.

I WANT TO...BUT IT CALLS TO ME.



IT IS SEDUCTIVE, THE POWER OF LIFE AND DEATH...



THE POWER TO REMAKE WORLDS...



SIMPLY... POWER, AND INFINITE AT THAT.



I CAN HEAR IT.



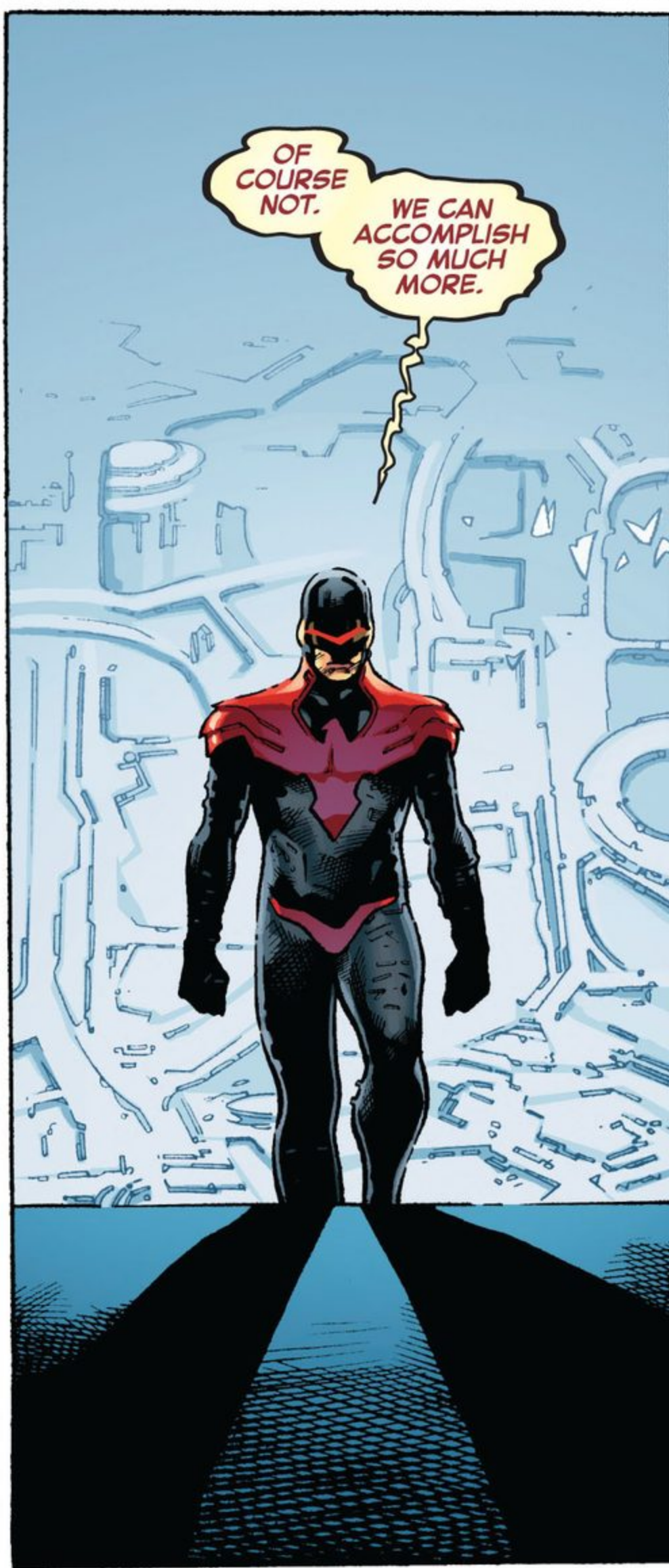
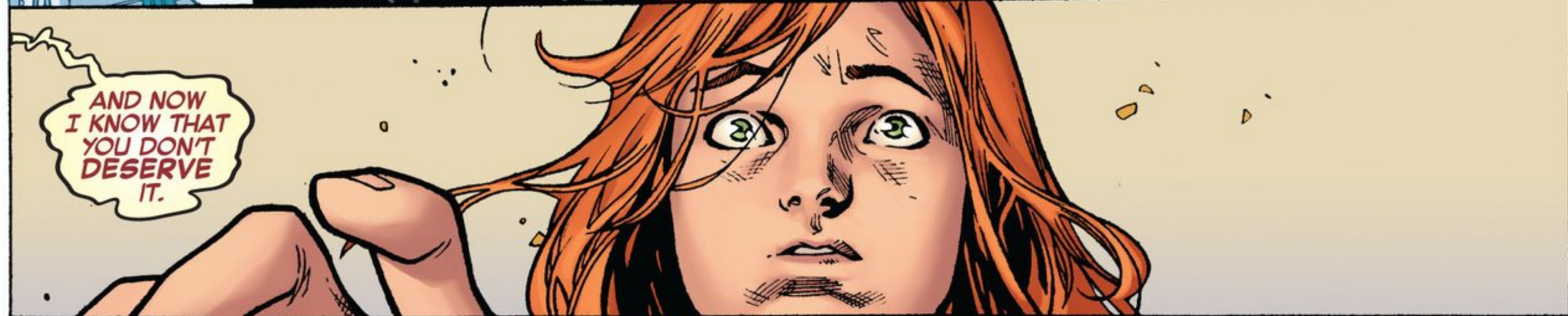
YES. AND IF I OFFERED IT NOW...

WOULD YOU TAKE IT?



I...I...

YES.







K'UN LUN.
LATER.



ANYTHING?

TEARS,
LEI KUNG...THEN
LAUGHTER.

WHEN
QUESTIONED, HE
WOULD ONLY MUTTER
THE SAME THING
OVER AND OVER:

"SOMETHING
BURNS."

...
UNLOCK
IT.

OLD
MAN.



HA!

I SMELL YOUR
FEAR--I SMELL
YOU--STORM'S
SON, THUNDER'S
THUNDER...
WEeping
BOY.

IT'S BEEN YEARS
SINCE I BEAT YOU
FOR SNEAKING INTO
MY STUDY. DID YOU
COME TO PILFER MORE
SECRETS...SEEKING
AGAIN THE HIDDEN
LORE?

OR HAS
SOMETHING
TICKLED A MEMORY...
STEALING YOUR
SLEEP LIKE IT HAS
MINE?

TELL ME.
DO YOU SMELL
THE CINDER AND
ASH, LEI
KUNG...



...OR ARE YOU AFRAID OF SOMETHING YOU'VE SEEN BEFORE?



THERE WAS A FLAMING BIRD IN THE SKY.

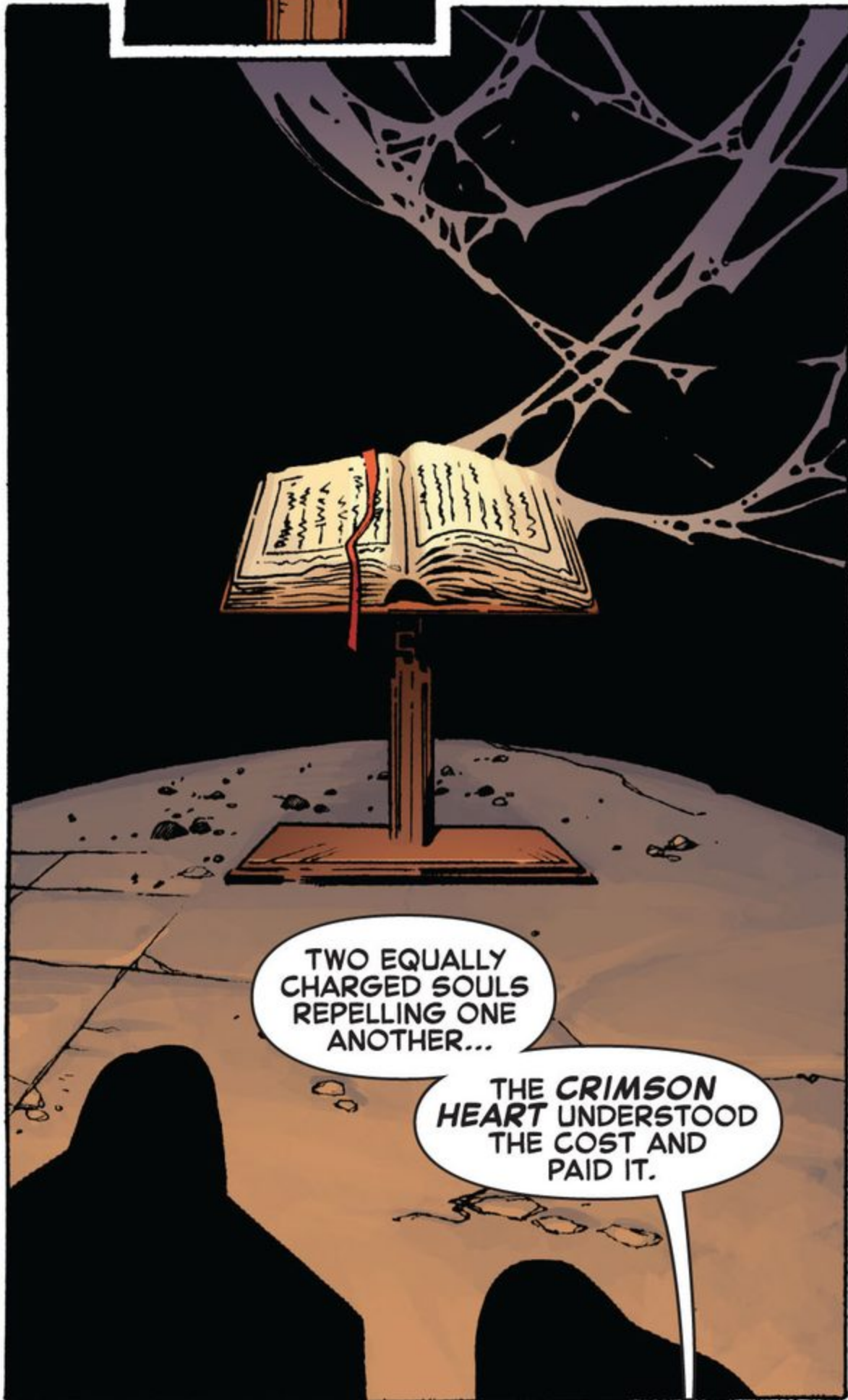
I NEED THE BOOK OF THE FALLEN.



YES...YES...A FIERY BIRD--THE **BURNING CYCLE**...VERY, VERY OLD THAT. VERY **BAD**.

COME TO CLEANSE THE FIELD. EXTINGUISH THE OLD AND MAKE WAY FOR THE NEW.

HEH. FONGJI THE SILENT HAD OTHER IDEAS... DO YOU REMEMBER?



TWO EQUALLY CHARGED SOULS REPELLING ONE ANOTHER...

THE **CRIMSON HEART** UNDERSTOOD THE COST AND PAID IT.



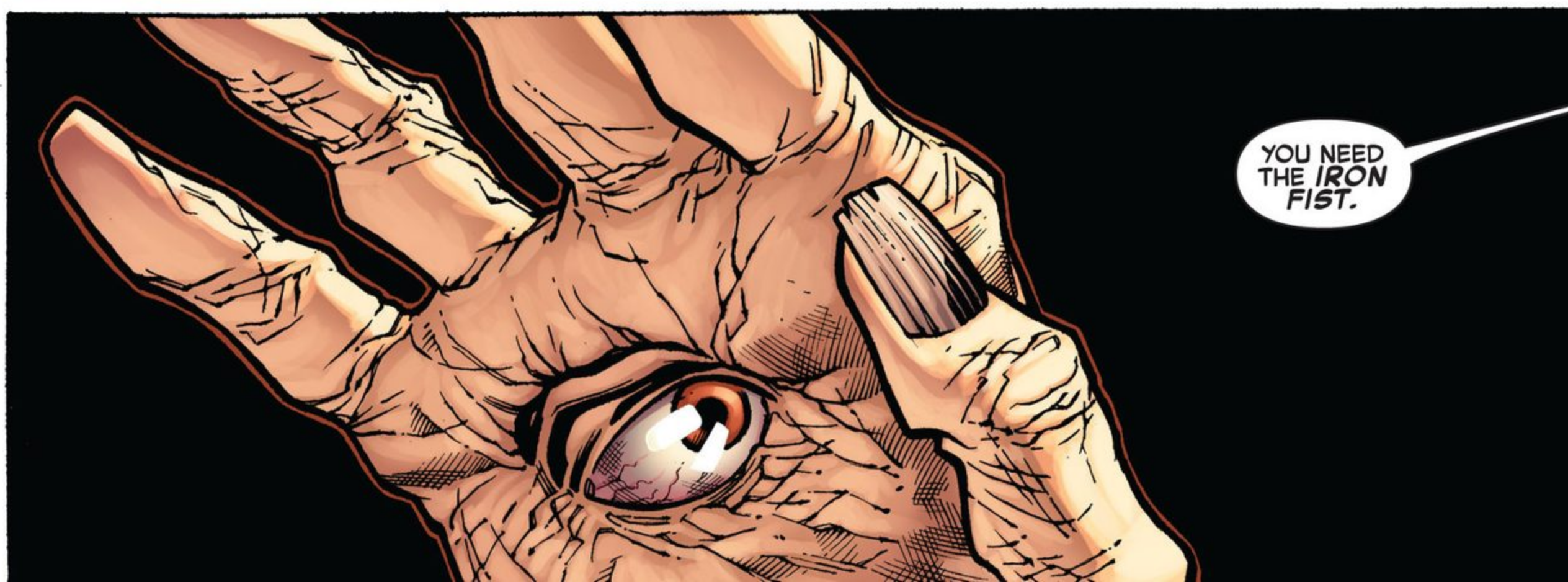
YES, YES...HERE IT IS.

THIS HAS ALL HAPPENED BEFORE...

FONGJI WU (FY 1596)---
FONGJI THE SILENT,
THE CRIMSON HEART,
THE DRAGON'S FIST.

REPELLED
THE PHOENIX OF
LIFE AND DEATH.

PREVENTING THE
CELESTIAL REBIRTH
OF EARTH AND
THE COLLAPSE OF
THE SEVEN
CAPITAL CITIES.



YOU NEED
THE IRON
FIST.

**THE WHITE HOUSE.
THREE DAYS LATER.**

IT SAYS HERE THAT A FORMER S.H.I.E.L.D. BLACK STATION IN THE PHILIPPINES WAS JUST OCCUPIED AND CONVERTED INTO A SCHOOL BY THE MUTANT KARMA.

WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A THREE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLAR FACILITY...

THE PRESIDENT HAS A SEEMINGLY ENDLESS STACK OF REPORTS JUST LIKE THIS.

I UNDERSTAND YOUR FRUSTRATION. THESE ARE TRYING TIMES FOR ALL OF US.

IT'S GOTTEN WORSE SINCE THE X-MEN DECLARED THEMSELVES THE--

THAT ISN'T ACCURATE.

T'CHALLA, YOU--

I WAS THERE, ANTHONY. I HEARD THE WORDS AS THEY WERE BEING SPOKEN.

THEY DIDN'T DECLARE THEMSELVES ANYTHING...THEY GAVE THE NATIONS AN ULTIMATUM.



WE HAVE GIVEN YOU WATER TO DRINK AND FOOD TO EAT. WE HAVE GIVEN YOU ENERGY--THE VERY KEY TO MODERNITY.

BUT THIS IS NOT ENOUGH! WE CAN DO MORE... AND SO WE SHALL.

THIS IS THE WORLD--AND YOU ARE ITS PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES...

SO HEAR MY WORDS.



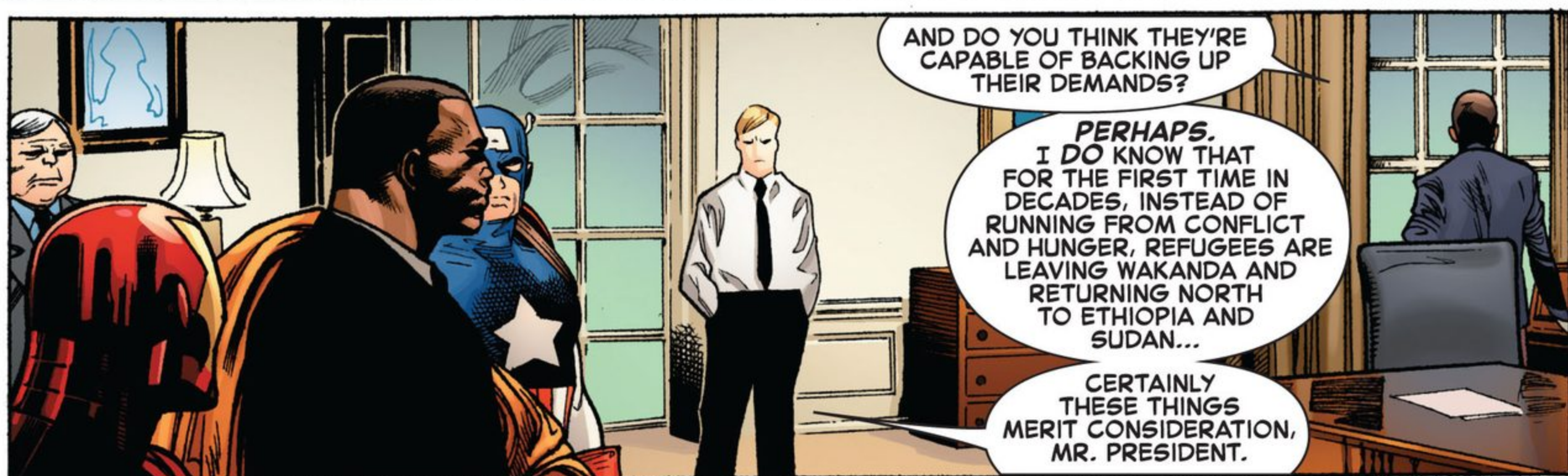
FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, WE GIVE YOU PEACE AND FREEDOM FROM THE AGGRESSION THAT HAS MARKED THE DARKEST DAYS OF MANKIND...

GO. BUILD GREAT THINGS, GREATER THAN HAVE EVER BEEN SEEN BEFORE...BUT NO MORE WEAPONS...NO MORE MACHINES OF DEATH...

FROM THIS DAY FORWARD WE WILL NO LONGER TOLERATE VIOLENCE TOWARDS MUTANT OR MAN.

FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, WE DECLARE NO MORE WAR.

PAX UTOPIA.



AND DO YOU THINK THEY'RE CAPABLE OF BACKING UP THEIR DEMANDS?

PERHAPS. I DO KNOW THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN DECADES, INSTEAD OF RUNNING FROM CONFLICT AND HUNGER, REFUGEES ARE LEAVING WAKANDA AND RETURNING NORTH TO ETHIOPIA AND SUDAN...

CERTAINLY THESE THINGS MERIT CONSIDERATION, MR. PRESIDENT.



OF COURSE THEY DO, YOUR MAJESTY. CLEARLY IT'S A WONDERFUL THING...GOD KNOWS WE GET TOO USED TO BLOODY HANDS.

BUT THIS...THIS IS...

IN SPITE OF ALL OUR FLAWS, I BELIEVE IN MANKIND--WE HAVE A HISTORY OF FORWARD PROGRESS.



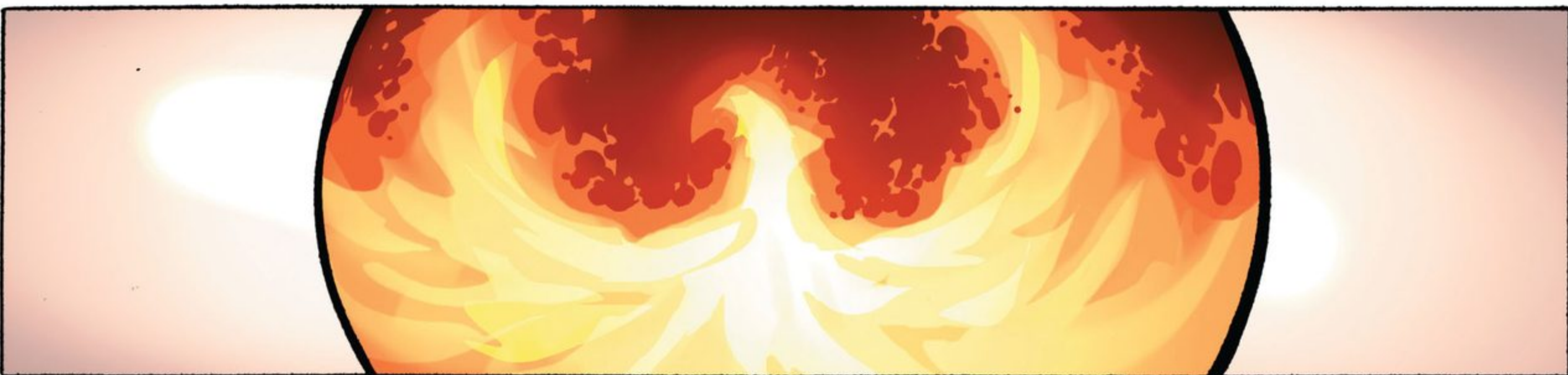
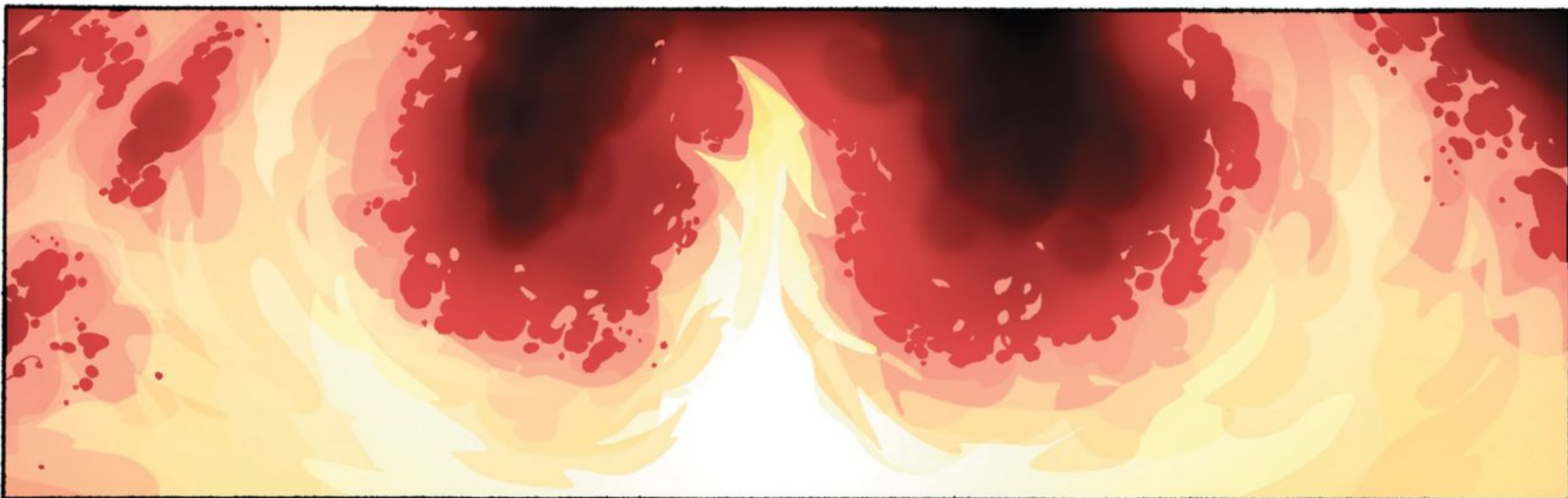
BUT WHEN THE WORLD WORKS IT IS BECAUSE THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN SOME OUTLYING CULTURE OF ACCOUNTABILITY.

RIGHT NOW, THESE X-MEN DO NOT HAVE THAT...

...AND SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE.

ELSEWHERE.





NOW.

MISSION COMMAND TO
LIBERATION--WE'VE GOT
THE GO-AHEAD FROM
THE DOD AND
USCENTCOM

ATC REPORTS
NO FLIGHTS IN YOUR
VICINITY.

AND
SKYWATCH
SHOWS...

"...FAVORABLE
CONDITIONS."

YOU'RE ALL
CLEAR. HAPPY
HUNTING.

"WE WANT
THE GIRL."

THREE HOURS EARLIER.

EXACTLY. IN REGARDS TO *THIS MISSION*, HOPE'S THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS.

SHE'S THE KEY TO FIGURING OUT THE PHOENIX FORCE.

LIMITED SCOPE IS GOOD...IT ISN'T LIKE WE COULD GO TOE-TO-TOE WITH ANY OF THE *FIVE* ANYWAY, IS THERE?

AND WIN?

NO CHANCE. BUT IF WE FIND OURSELVES IN A PINCH, THE ARMOR TONY COOKED UP SURE WILL PUT MORE TEETH IN OUR BITE.

YEAH, BUT WE CAN'T TELEPORT IN, MAGIK WILL HAVE COUNTERMEASURES FOR THAT...AND IF WE ROLL UP SLOW, THEY'RE GONNA SMELL US COMIN.'

SO...WE JUMP IN, GRAB THE GIRL, GET THE HELL OUT.

THAT'S WHY WE'LL BE JUMPING A SMALL TEAM OUT OF A CONVERTED 767. THERE'S A COMMERCIAL ROUTE 50 MILES NORTH OF UTOPIA. WE'LL HALO IT.

THE TEAM WILL BE EVERYONE HERE AND--

I WON'T BE GOING.

WHAT?

I'M A HEAD-OF-STATE. IT CANNOT APPEAR AS IF WAKANDA SUPPORTS THIS ACTION...AS WE DO NOT.

NO MATTER HOW WELL-INTENTIONED IT MIGHT BE.

UNDERSTANDABLE, T'CHALLA, AND IF WE DO THIS RIGHT, HOPEFULLY IT WILL BE SELF-CONTAINED.

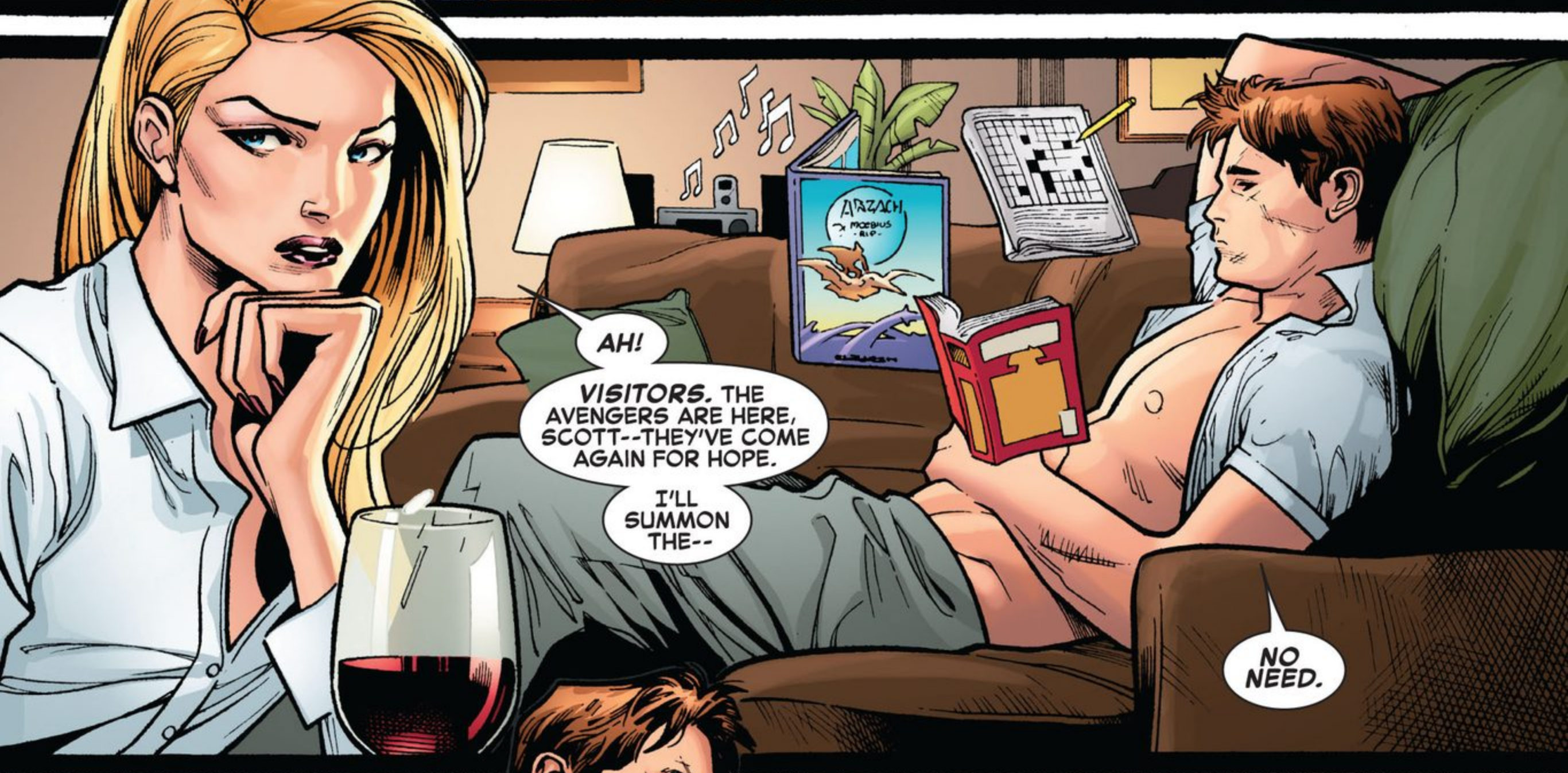
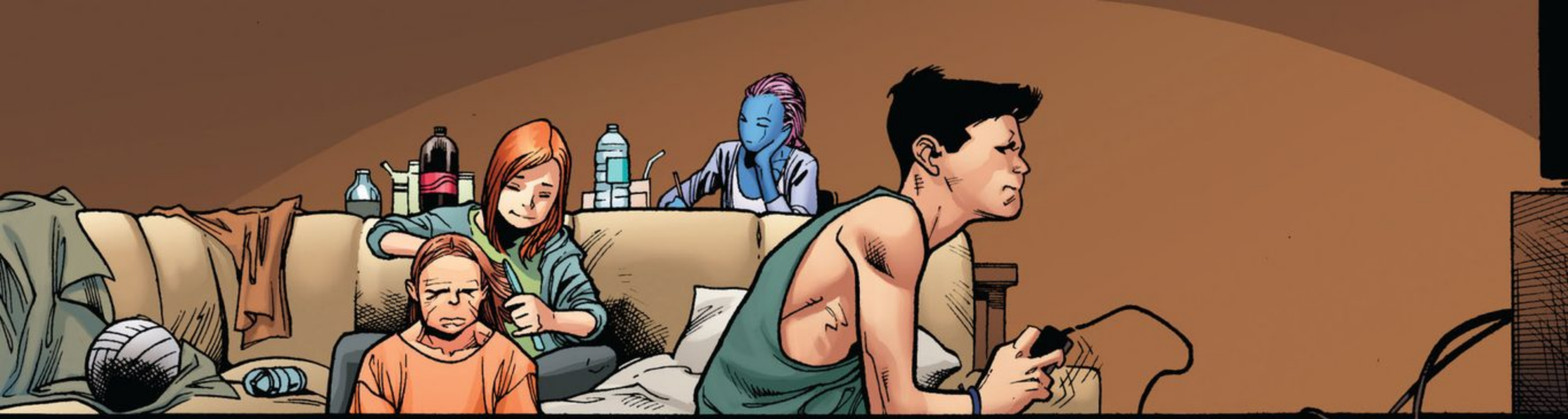
BACK TO THE PLAN, HERE'S THE INSERTION POINT FOR OUR TEAM. WE'VE GOT SATELLITE IMAGERY OF MULTIPLE APPEARANCES OF HOPE ON THIS OUTCROPPING--WE NEED TO BE IN UTOPIA AND GONE IN UNDER A MINUTE.

I'M TIRED OF GUESSWORK AND FAULTY THEORIES REGARDING THE PHOENIX--AS THE INTENDED PRIMARY HOST, HOPE REPRESENTS THE KEY TO FULLY UNDERSTANDING WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST.

SO I REPEAT...



"...WE WANT
THE GIRL."





GET AWAY FROM HER, YOU--

OOFFF!

GABRIEL!

I HAVE HER!

THAT'S IT!

FULL WITHDRAWAL! EVERYONE GET--

SNIFF

SNIFF

TOO LATE, CAP. SLIM'S HERE.

INDEED I AM,
LOGAN.

AND YOUR
BEHAVIOR IS
BECOMING
EMBARRASSING.



GET BACK!
WE JUST WANT
THE GIRL AND
WE'LL GO!



OH,
YOU GET
NOTHING...

AND THIS
TIME YOU STAY
GONE.



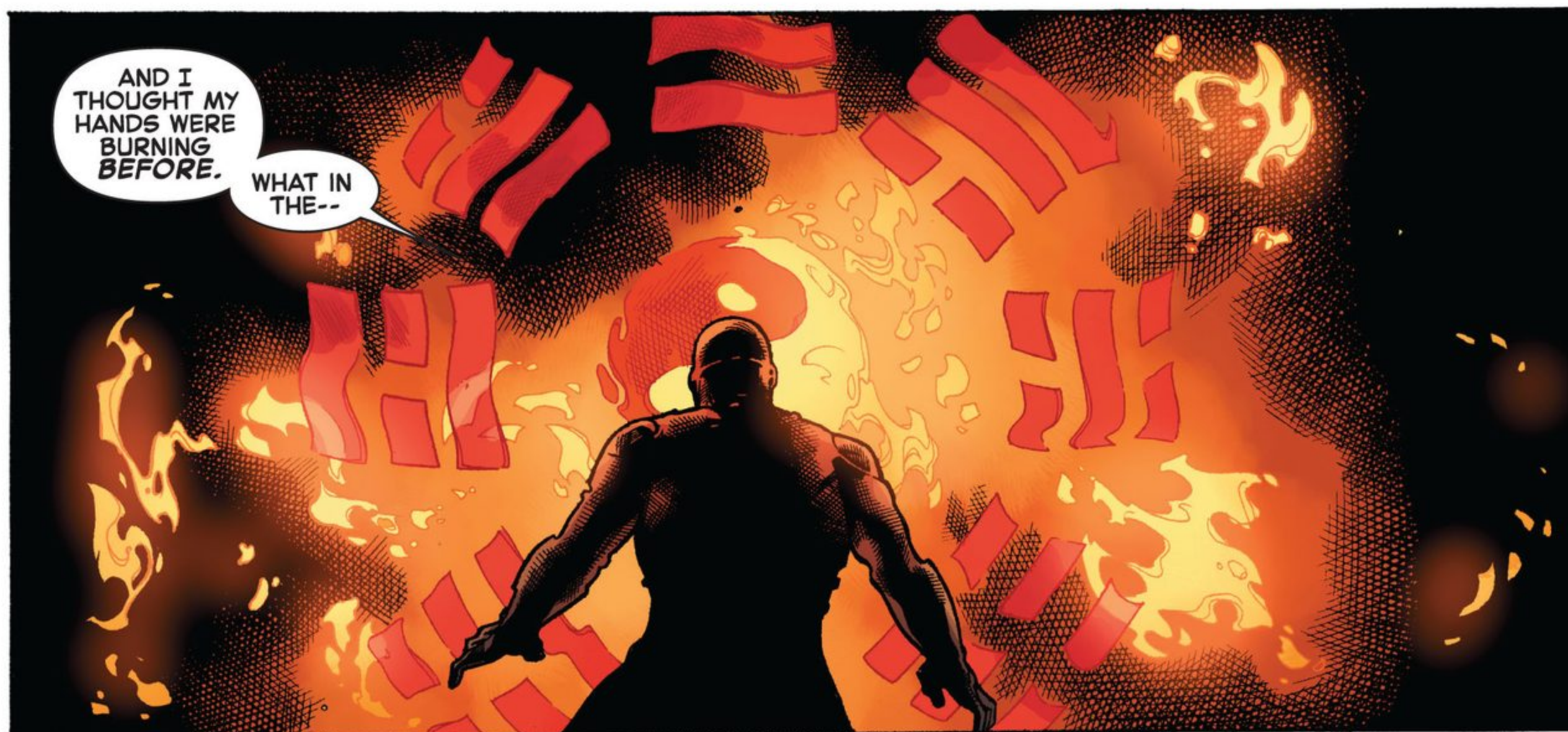
LOOK
OUT!



WHY
AM I
NOT...

WHOA.





AND I
THOUGHT MY
HANDS WERE
BURNING
BEFORE.

WHAT IN
THE--



ZZRAK!



EMMA...

GET
HOPE.



I WILL
HANDLE
THESE
TWO.

@^%#!



STAND ASIDE,
BOY...OR I WILL
CALL THE STORM
AND TEAR OPEN
THE SKY.



YOU'RE
THREATENING
ME WITH
WEATHER?



RRRRRR!

UUFFFF!

I AM LIFE
AND I AM
DEATH...

YOU THINK
I FEAR THE
THUNDER AND
LIGHTNING?



SCOTT!

THERE'S
SOMETHING--

CHAOS!

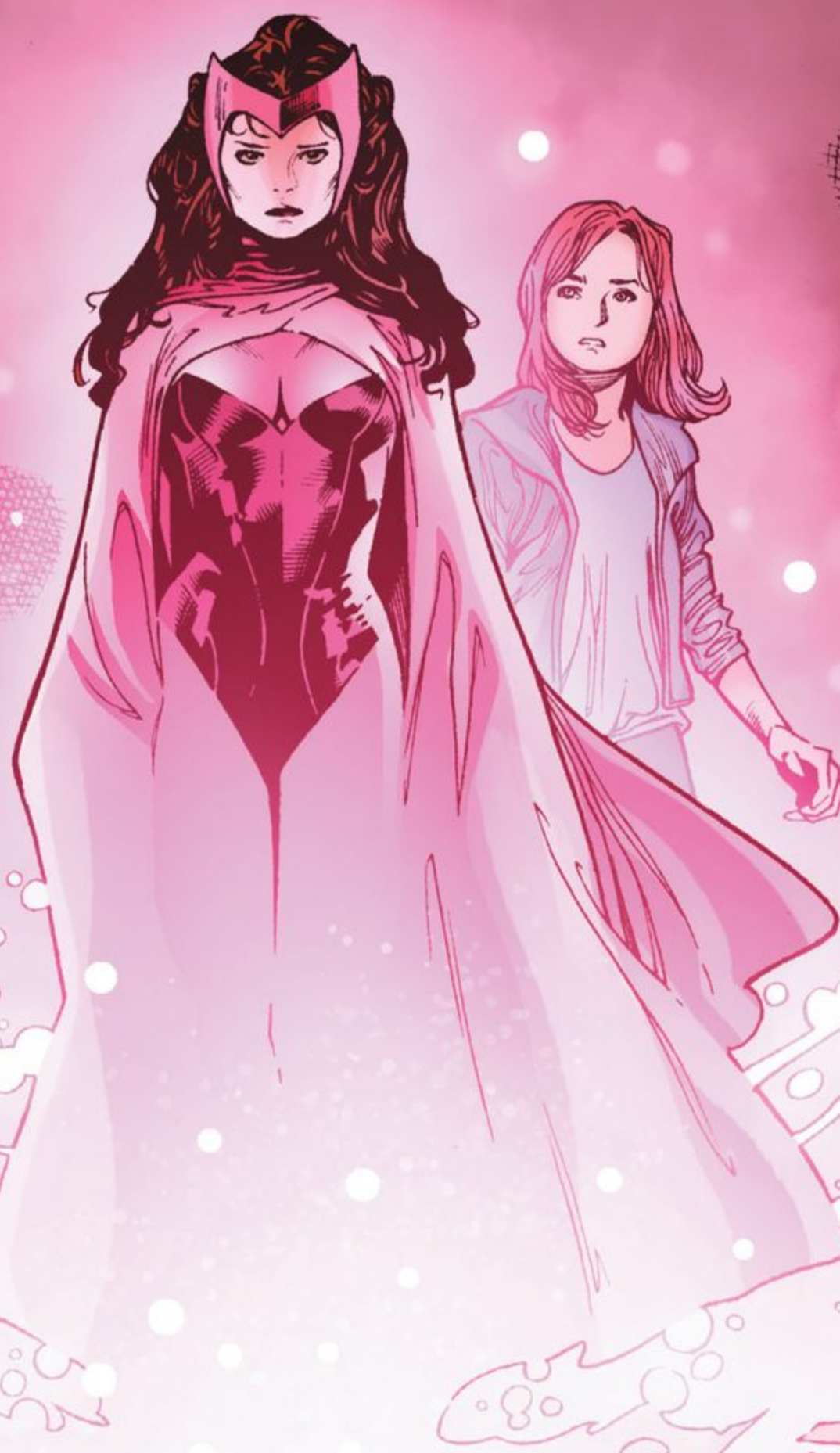


THE SCARLET WITCH!

THIS. MUST. STOP!

MERCY, SCOTT...FOR ALL OF MAN AND MUTANTKIND.

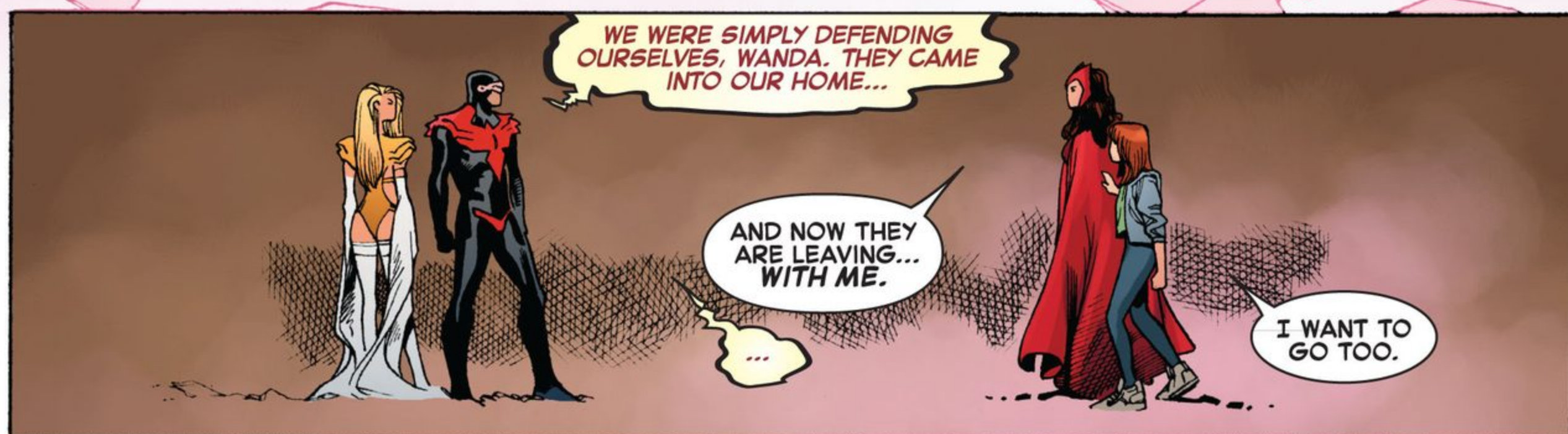
I HAVE SEEN WHERE THIS LEADS.



WE WERE SIMPLY DEFENDING OURSELVES, WANDA. THEY CAME INTO OUR HOME...

AND NOW THEY ARE LEAVING... WITH ME.

I WANT TO GO TOO.



NO. ABSOLUTELY NOT.

YOU SAID I COULD LEAVE WHENEVER I WANTED. YOU SAID THIS WASN'T A PRISON.

THIS IS DIFFERENT. THEY WANT TO USE YOU AGAINST US--I WILL NOT LET THAT HAPPEN.

I'M NOT LEAVING WITH THEM...I'M LEAVING WITH HER.

IT IS A TERRIBLE THING TO FEEL ALONE AMONG YOUR OWN KIND...TO BE MISUNDERSTOOD...

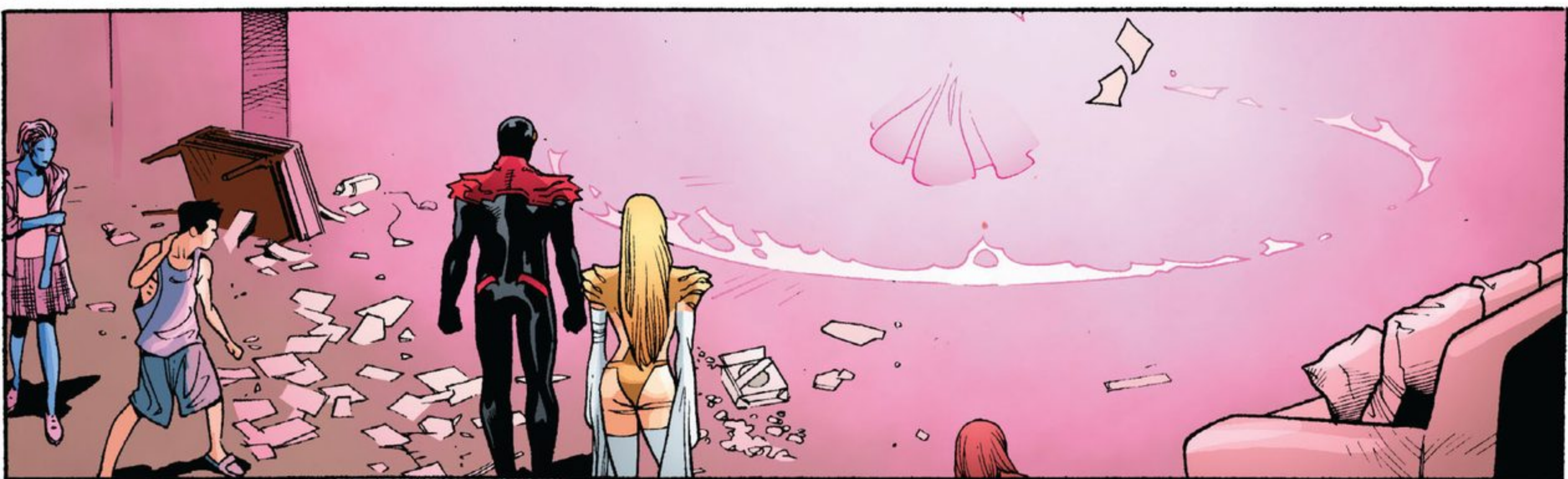
I WILL TAKE YOU WHEREVER YOU WANT TO GO.

NO! I WILL NOT--



AARGGGGHHH!







SCOTT,
WHAT DO
YOU--

EVERY TIME,
EMMA--EVERY
TIME WE GET
PUSHED FURTHER
INTO A CORNER...

THEY'LL
NEVER STOP
COMING.



WE HAVE BEEN
FEARED AND HUNTED...
WE HAVE BECOME
ENDANGERED...WE ARE
SO VERY FEW. AND,
STILL, THEY KEEP
COMING FOR US.

NOW, EVEN AT
OUR MOST POWERFUL,
EVEN WHEN WE DO THE
FAVOR OF REMAKING
THE EARTH INTO A MORE
LIVABLE PLACE, EVEN
THEN...

MANKIND FEELS
BOLD ENOUGH TO SEND
THEIR HEROES HERE TO
STEAL OUR INNOCENT--
TO TAKE AWAY OUR
TOMORROW...



I'VE FINALLY
FIGURED OUT
WHY...IT'S
THEM.

MEN KNOW THAT
REGARDLESS OF THEIR
ENDLESS SINS AGAINST
MUTANTS, THEIR HEROES
WILL PROTECT THEM. THEY
WILL DO WHAT THEIR LEADERS
THINK NEEDS TO
BE DONE.

I WILL
TOLERATE IT NO
LONGER, EMMA. IT
CHANGES NOW.



NO MORE
AVENGERS.

TO BE CONTINUED



US
#7
COMING IN TWO WEEKS!



GREETINGS, TRUE BELIEVERS!

WELCOME TO THE SECOND INSTALLMENT OF INFINITE COMICS, A NEW COMICS-READING EXPERIENCE SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO BE READ DIGITALLY.

TO READ INFINITE COMICS PROPERLY YOU HAVE TO BE IN GUIDED VIEW. IF YOU ARE ON A MOBILE PHONE, YOU ARE ALREADY IN GUIDED VIEW. IF YOU'RE ON A TABLET, DOUBLE TAP THE SCREEN TO ENTER GUIDED VIEW. IF YOU'RE ON A WEB BROWSER, SELECT GUIDED VIEW ON THE TOOLBAR. YOU KNOW YOU'RE IN GUIDED VIEW IF ONE PANEL FADES INTO THE NEXT. TAP THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE SCREEN TO MOVE FORWARD IN THE STORY AND TAP THE LEFT SIDE TO MOVE BACKWARD.

THAT'S IT! TAP THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE SCREEN AND ENJOY!

RECOMMENDED SETTINGS

TAP THE CENTER OF THE SCREEN AND THE INFORMATION BARS ON THE TOP AND THE BOTTOM WILL APPEAR.

- ❶ GIVES YOU ANY INFORMATION YOU NEED.**
- ❷ LETS YOU TO MOVE TO ANY PAGE OF THE STORY.**
- ⚙ SHOWS SETTINGS OPTIONS.**
- ❸ GIVES YOU HELP, SHOULD YOU NEED IT.**

WE HAVE SOME SETTINGS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HOW TO BEST ENJOY THE STORY.

- MAKE SURE "ANIMATE TRANSITIONS" IS TURNED ON.**
- SET THE TRANSITION SPEED TO 0.3 SECONDS.**
- SELECT "DEFAULT LETTERBOXING."**
- TURN BOTH "SHOW PAGE ON ENTER" AND "SHOW PAGE ON EXIT" TO OFF.**

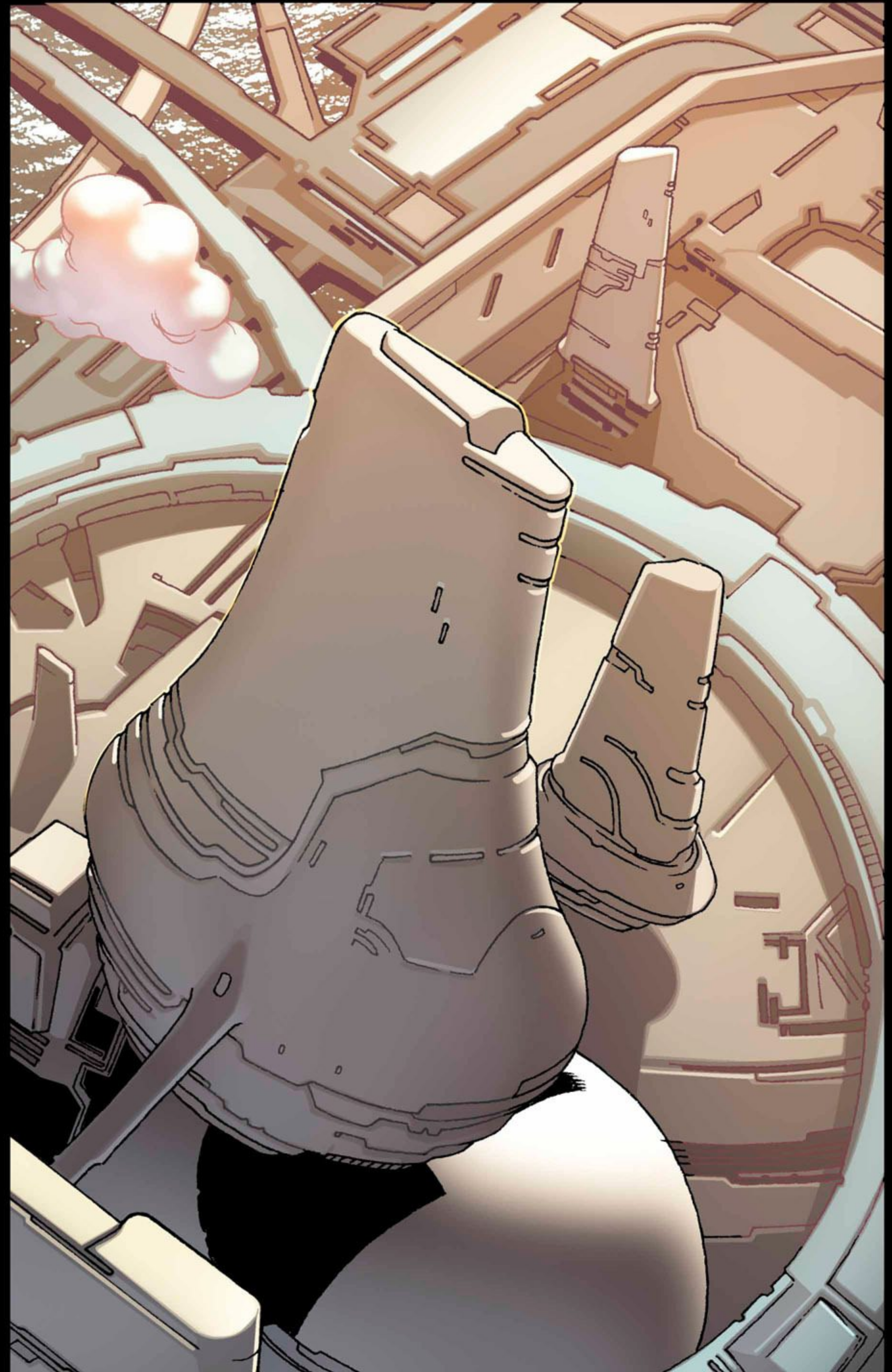
UTOPIA.

NOT JUST THE
NAME OF THE
CITY BELOW.

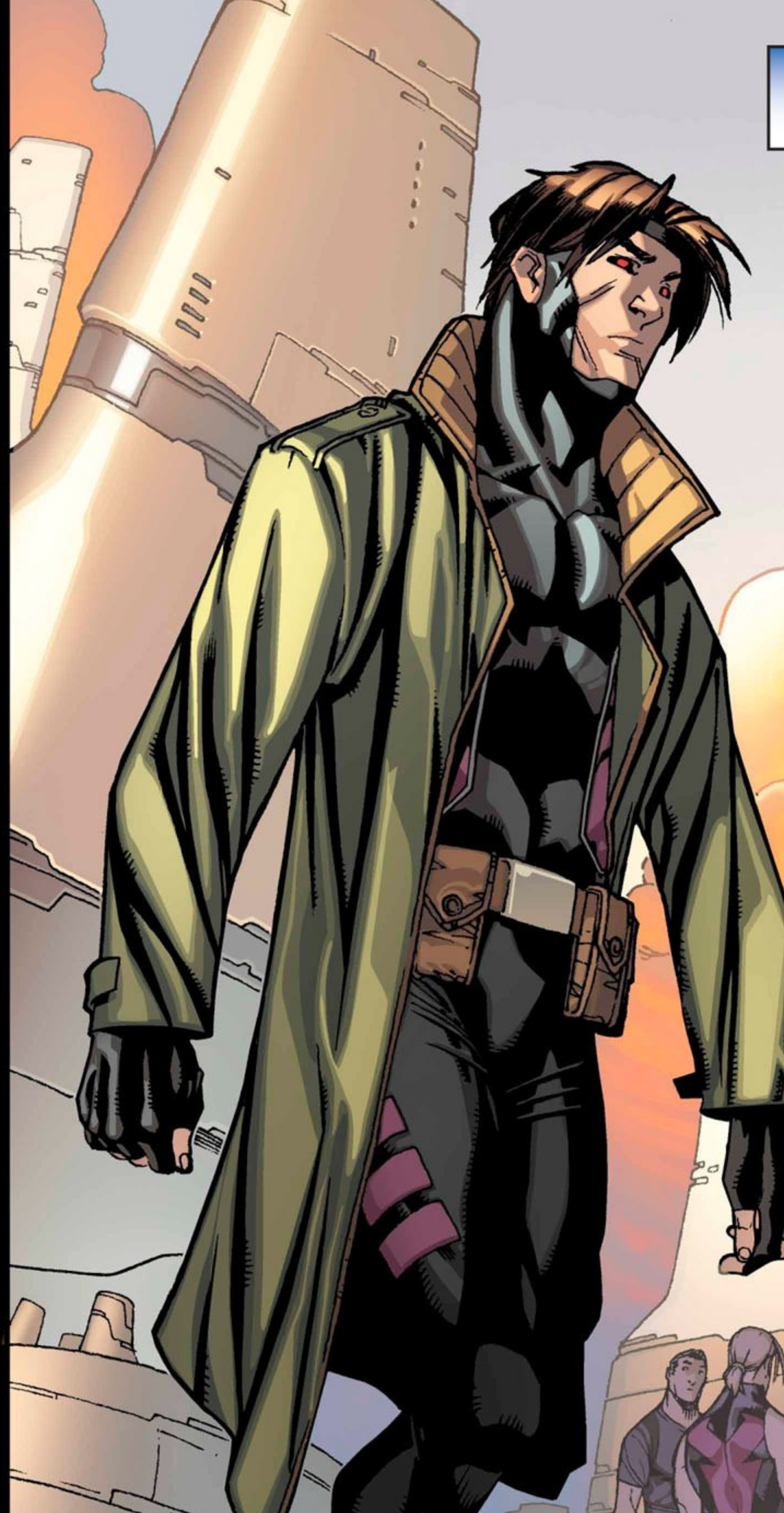
A DESCRIPTION OF
WHAT THE *PLANET
EARTH* HAS *BECOME*
FOR *HOMO SUPERIOR*,
THE *MUTANT RACE*.

PERSECUTED BY
HUMANS, DRIVEN
NEARLY TO EXTINCTION,
THE MUTANTS HAVE
NOW ASCENDED TO
DOMINANCE THANKS
TO THE *PHOENIX
FORCE--*

--AN OMNIPOTENT
POWER DIVIDED
BETWEEN FOUR OF
THE SUPERIORS AND
THEIR ULTIMATE
LEADER:



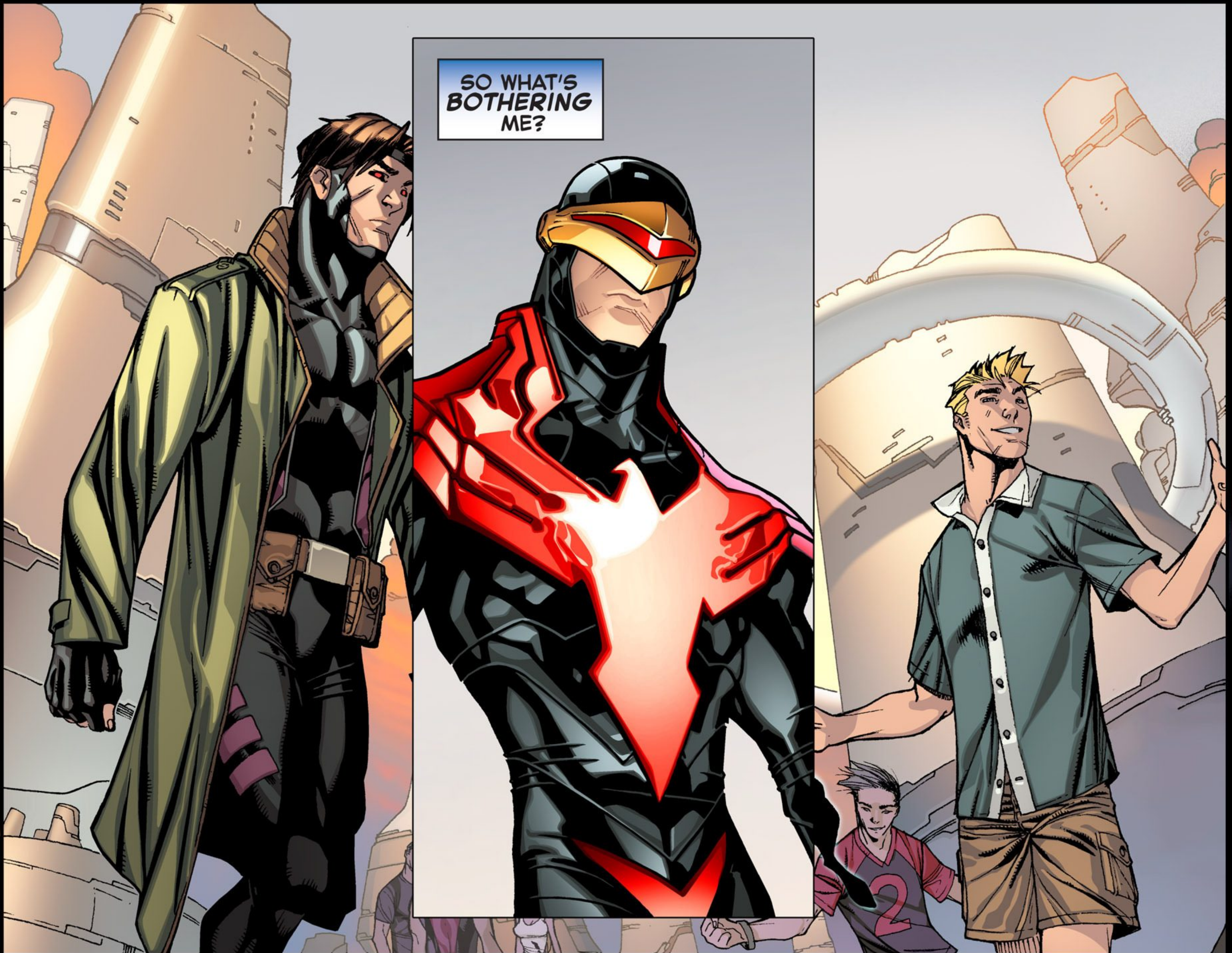


A full-page comic book illustration. On the left, Cyclops stands in a long, olive-green trench coat over a black tactical suit. He has a serious expression and his red visor is visible. In the center, a soccer player in a white jersey and brown shorts is being tackled by a black, multi-limbed mutant. A soccer ball is in the air. On the right, a young man with blonde hair, wearing a green polo shirt and brown shorts, is smiling and reaching out. In the background, a figure in a red and black suit flies through the air. The setting is a city with large, futuristic buildings under a hazy, orange-tinted sky.

**CYCLOPS
THE FIRST.**

WHOSE *SINGULAR
VISION* HAS AT LAST
ACHIEVED FOR
MUTANTKIND EVERY
GOAL I EVER *SET*
FOR US.

WE ARE HAPPY...
WE ARE SAFE...AND
WE ARE IN CHARGE
OF TOMORROW.

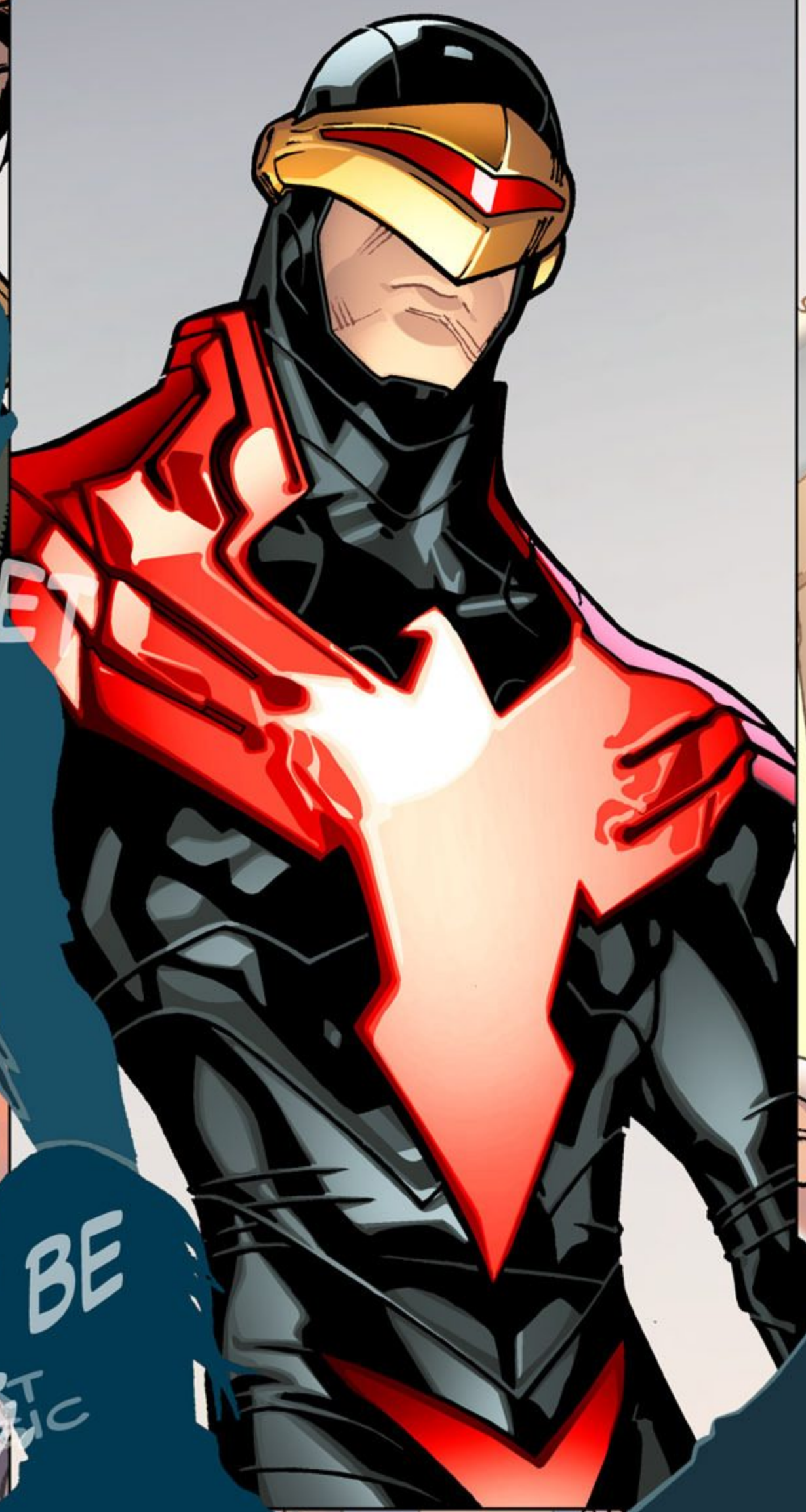




AS WE REMAKE THE WORLD,
I'VE BEEN STEALING QUIET
SECONDS HERE AND THERE
TO FERRET IT OUT...

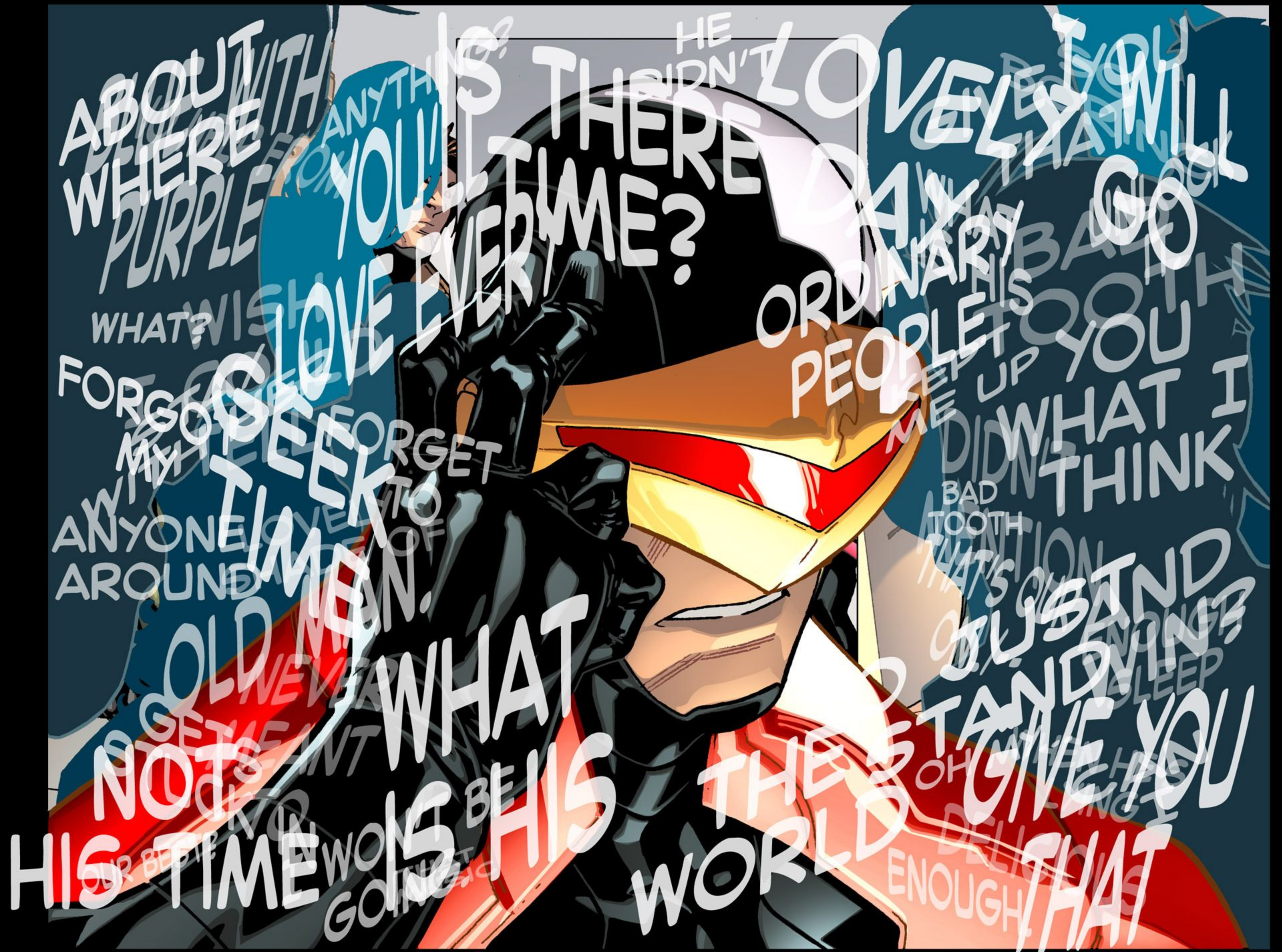
...ONLY TO BE REMINDED
OF THE FIRST SURPRISE
THAT COMES WITH THE
PHOENIX FORCE:

TO A
TELEPATHIC
MIND...



BLUE WITH
PURPLE
WISH
WHAT?
I COULD
STAY
TELL FORGET
ANYONE LOVELY TO
AROUND SHADE OF
OLD MAN.
NEVER
GETS MEANT
STUCK TO
OUR BEST?
I WON'T BE
GOING

GIVE YOU
THAT
UNLOCK
WHAT IS HIS
TOOTH
YOU
WHAT I
THINK
AND
WIN?
SLEEP
OH MY
LYING
CAN
DELICIOUS
ENOUGH.









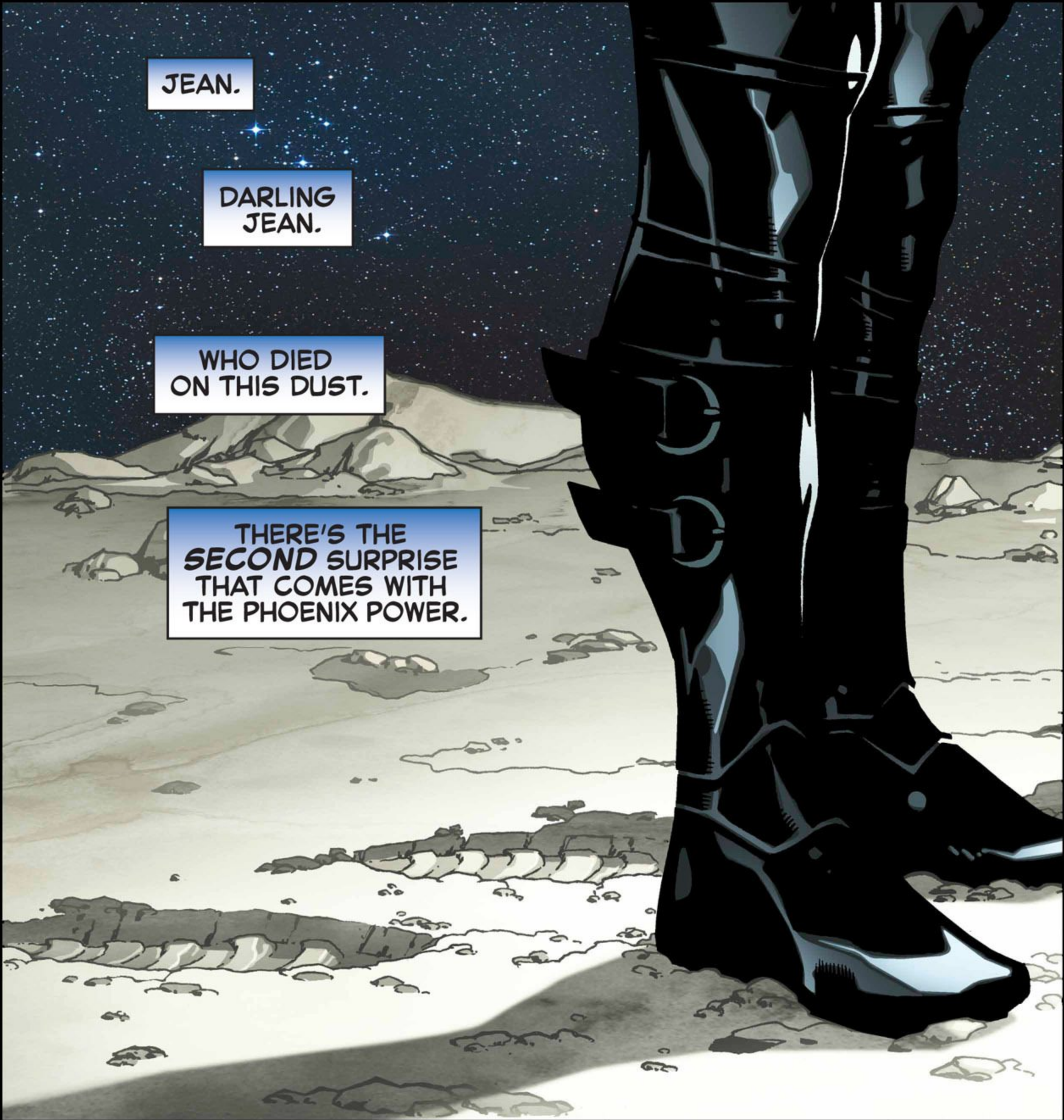
MAYBE *HERE*
I CAN *THINK*.



MAYBE *HERE*
I CAN *THINK*.

HOW DID *JEAN* EVER
HANDLE TELEPATHY FROM
SUCH A YOUNG AGE
WITHOUT HER *HEAD*
EXPLODING?





JEAN.

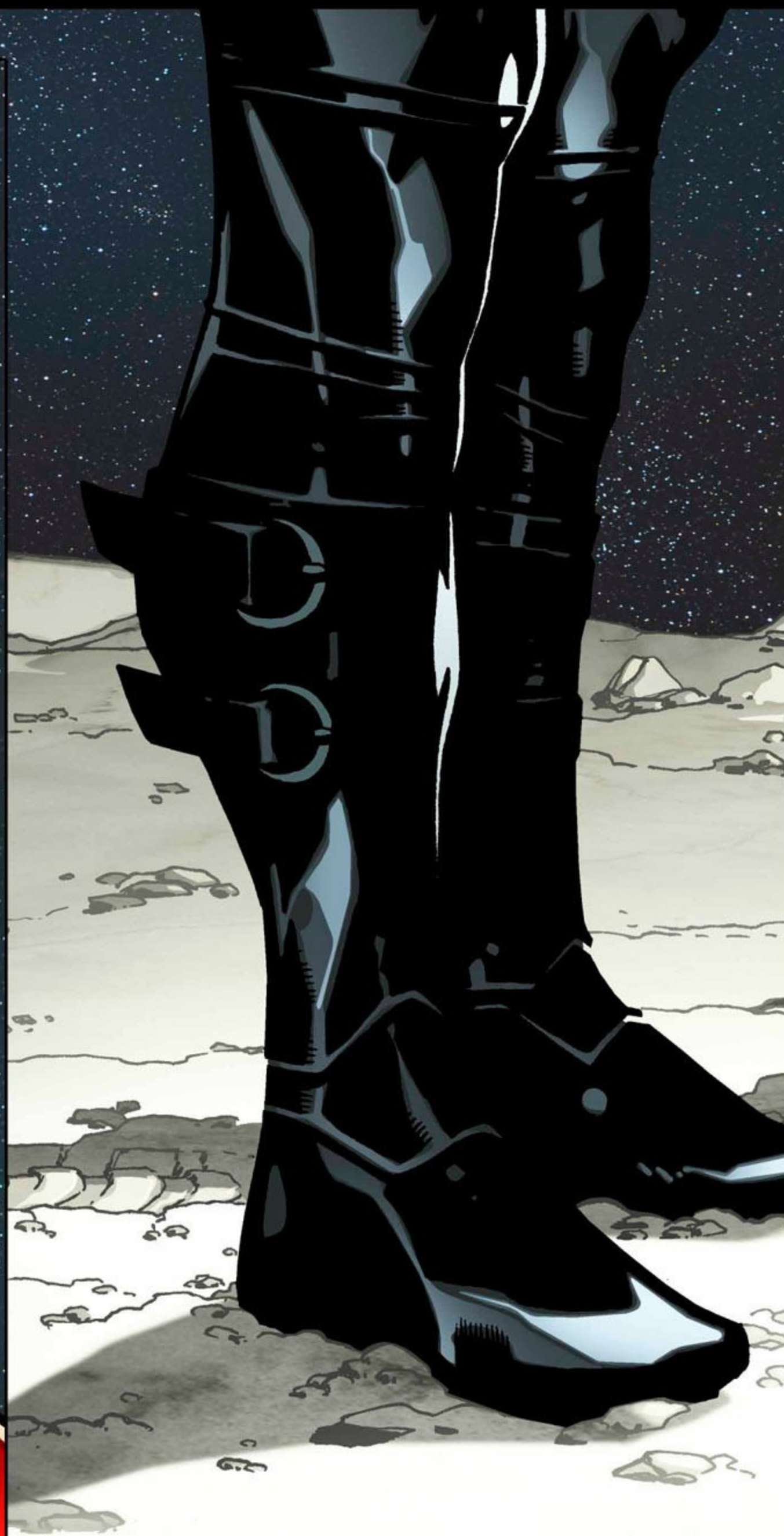
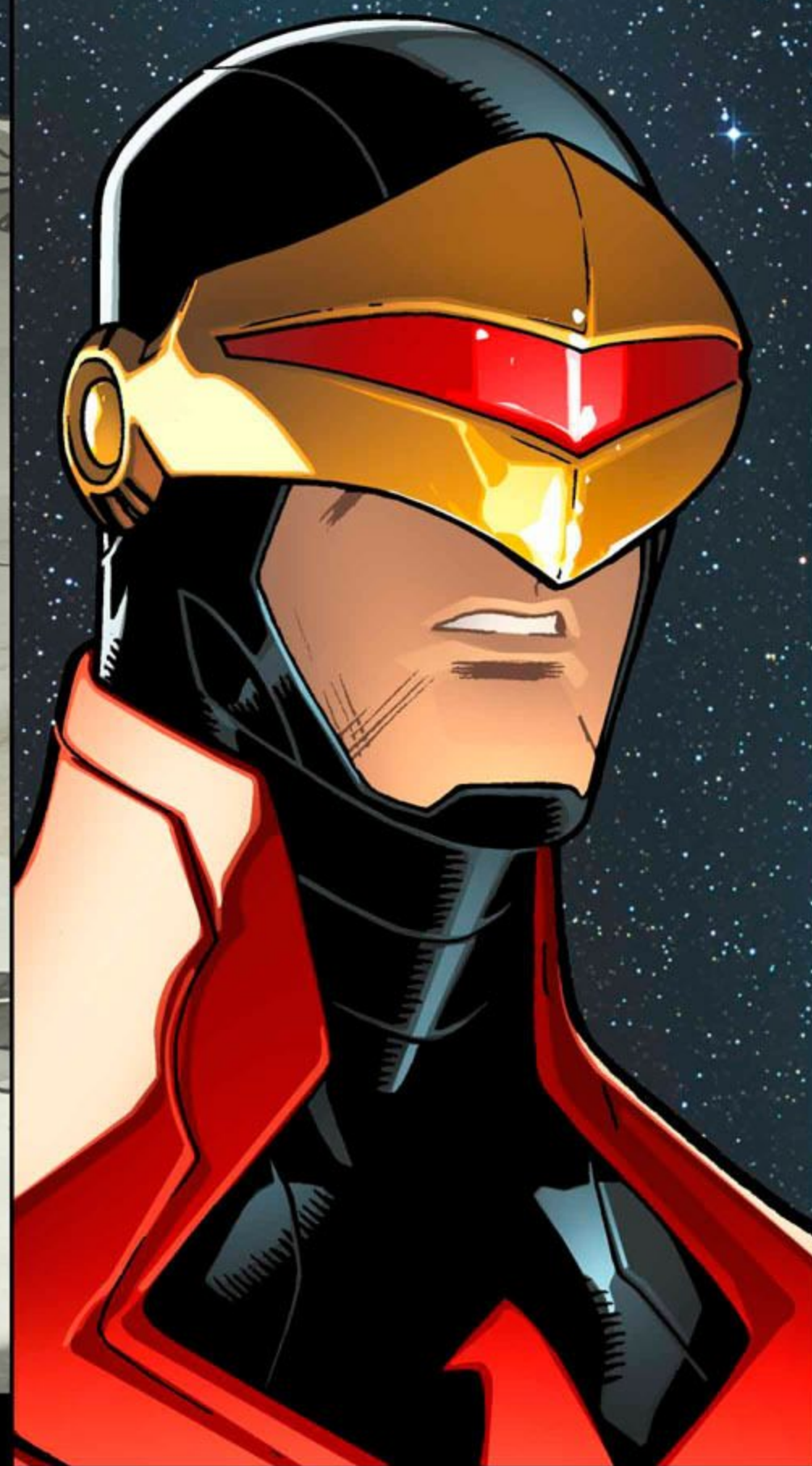
DARLING
JEAN.

WHO DIED
ON THIS DUST.

THERE'S THE
SECOND SURPRISE
THAT COMES WITH
THE PHOENIX POWER.

IT MAKES HER MEMORY--
THE **LOSS** OF HER--
FRESH AND RAW AGAIN.
EVERY DAY. EVERY HOUR.

AS IF EACH STEP
I TAKE LEADS ME
RIGHT BACK TO--





OH.

I DIDN'T MEAN
TO COME HERE--

--CONSCIOUSLY.



IS THIS A CLUE TO
WHAT'S NAGGING ME?
I'VE NEVER BEEN ONE
TO LET MY MIND
WANDER.





THE *BLUE*
AREA OF
THE MOON.

AN ANCIENT LUNAR
CITY OF ALIEN ORIGIN.
SELF-SUSTAINING
ECOSYSTEM, OXYGEN
ATMOSPHERE.

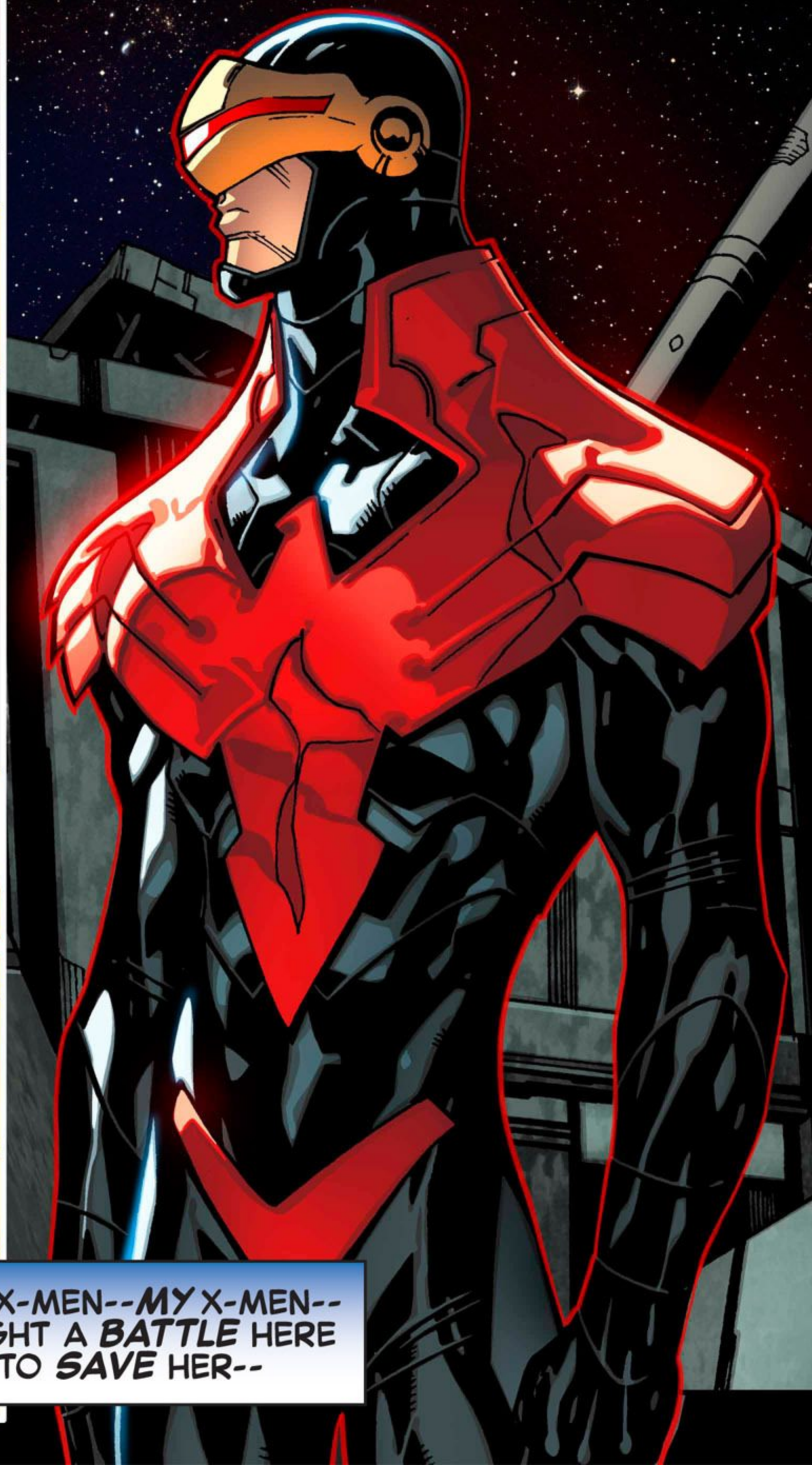
THE SACRED
SITE...

...OF JEAN GREY'S
GREATEST VICTORY.

YEARS AGO,
JEAN WAS THE
FIRST TO HOLD
THE UNTAMED
PHOENIX. IT USED
HER AS ITS
PUPPET,
COMMITTING
XENOCIDE.

THE **IMPERIAL**
GUARD OF THE
SHI'AR RACE
CONDEMNED HER
FOR ITS CRIMES.

THE X-MEN--MY X-MEN--
FOUGHT A **BATTLE** HERE
TO **SAVE** HER--



--A MESSY,
CHAOTIC
CLASH--

--THAT ENDED IN
THE CRUELEST AND
MOST LOVING ACT
OF GRACE I'VE
EVER WITNESSED--





--WHEN
JEAN--

--WHEN
JEAN--

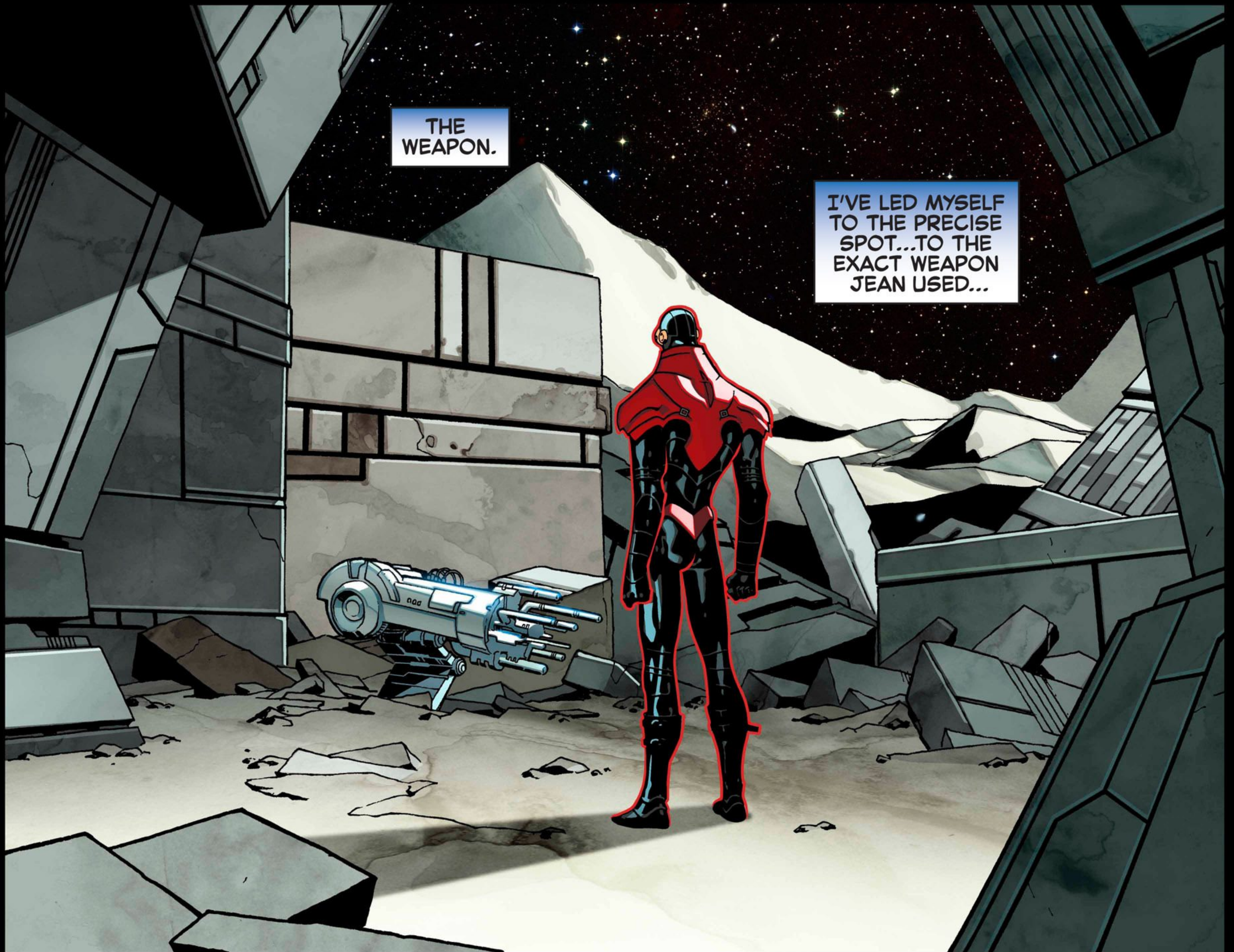
MY GOD.

THE
WEAPON.



THE
WEAPON.

I'VE LED MYSELF
TO THE PRECISE
SPOT...TO THE
EXACT WEAPON
JEAN USED...



...TO SACRIFICE
HER *LIFE* TO
SAVE *US*.



SCOTT!
SCOTT!
SCOTT!
SCOTT!

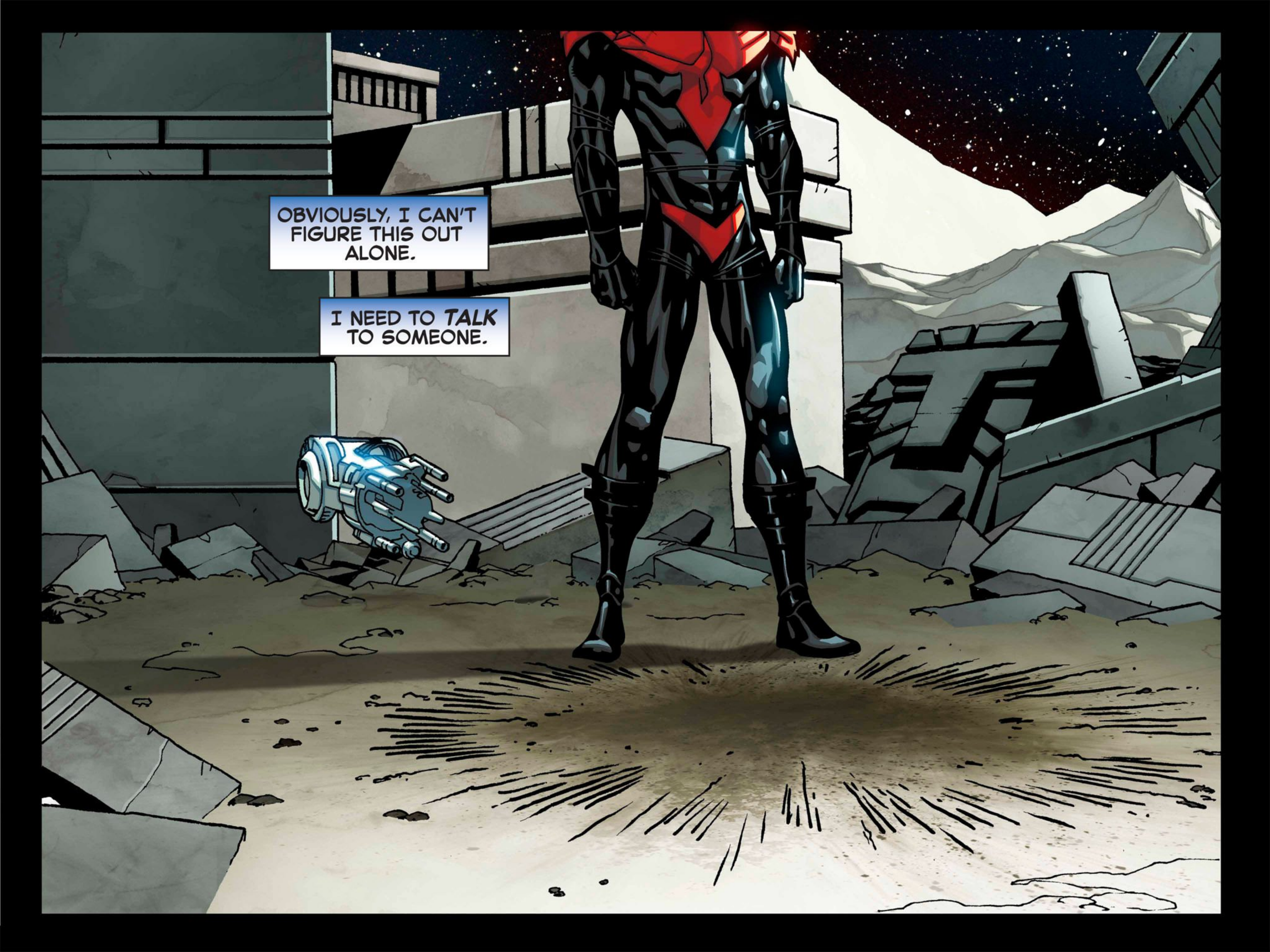




SO WHY
DON'T I FEEL
ANYTHING?

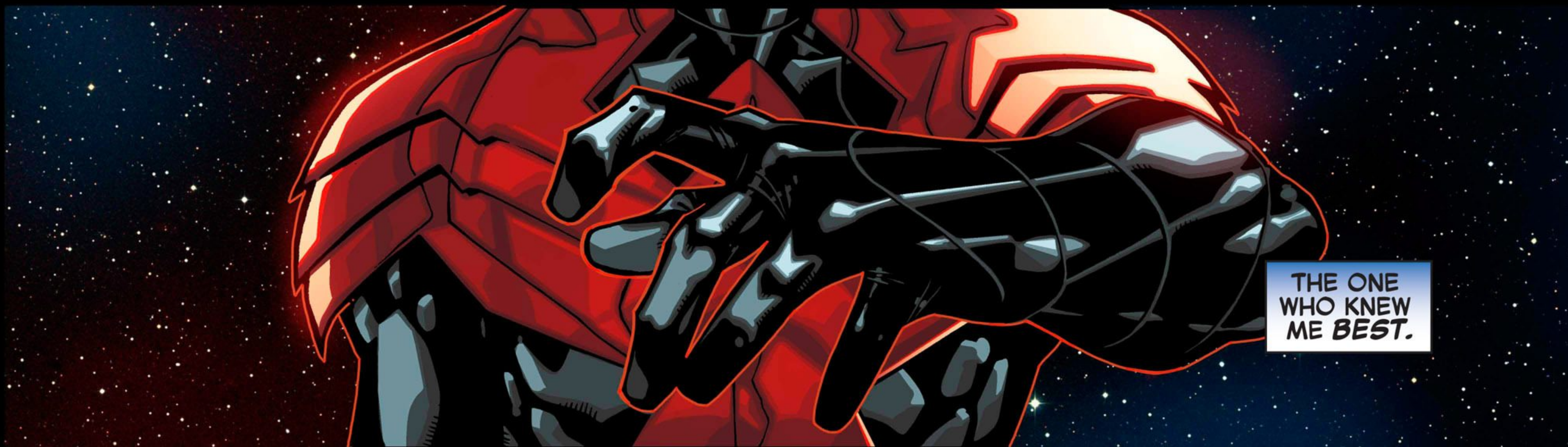


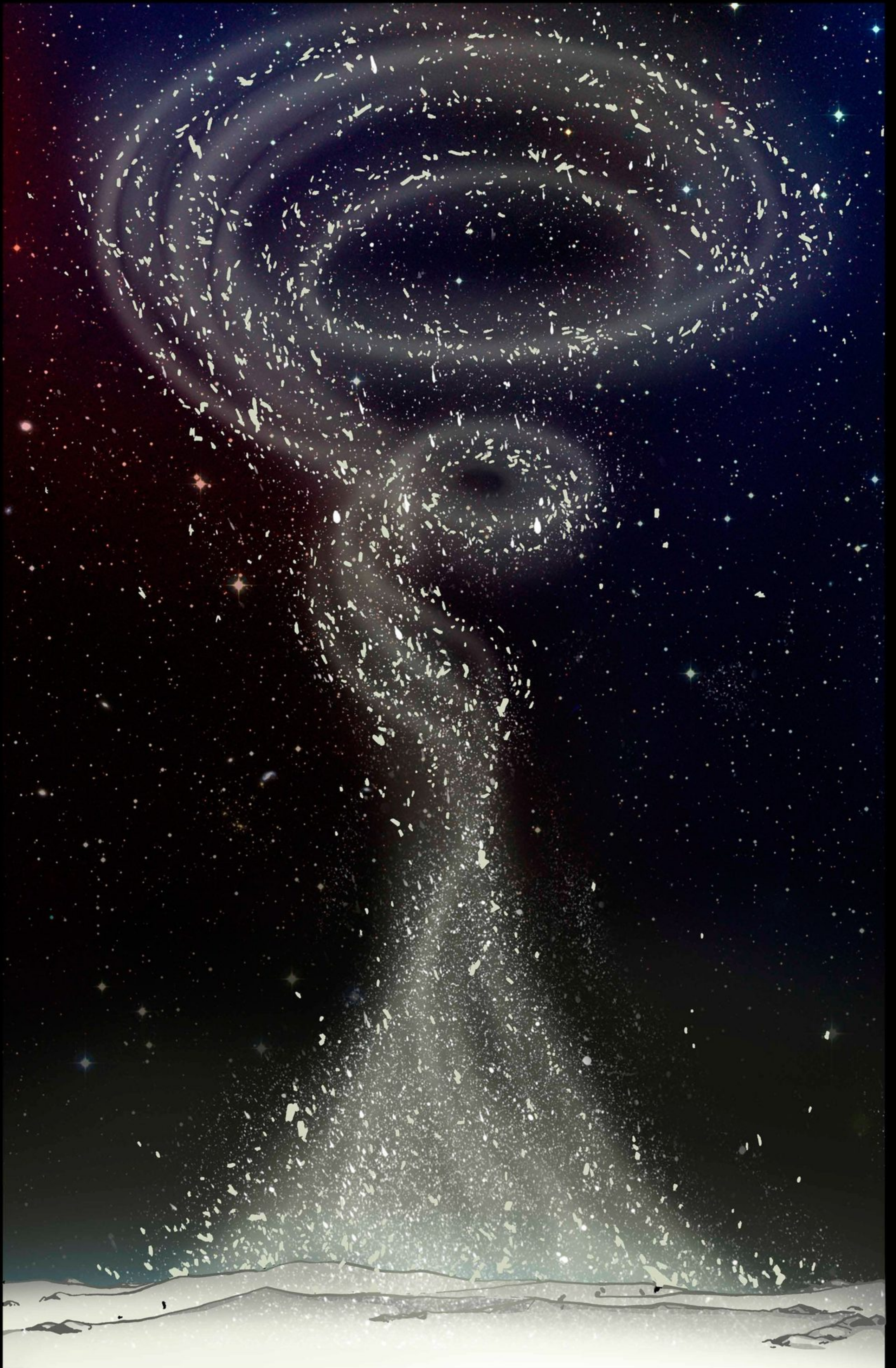




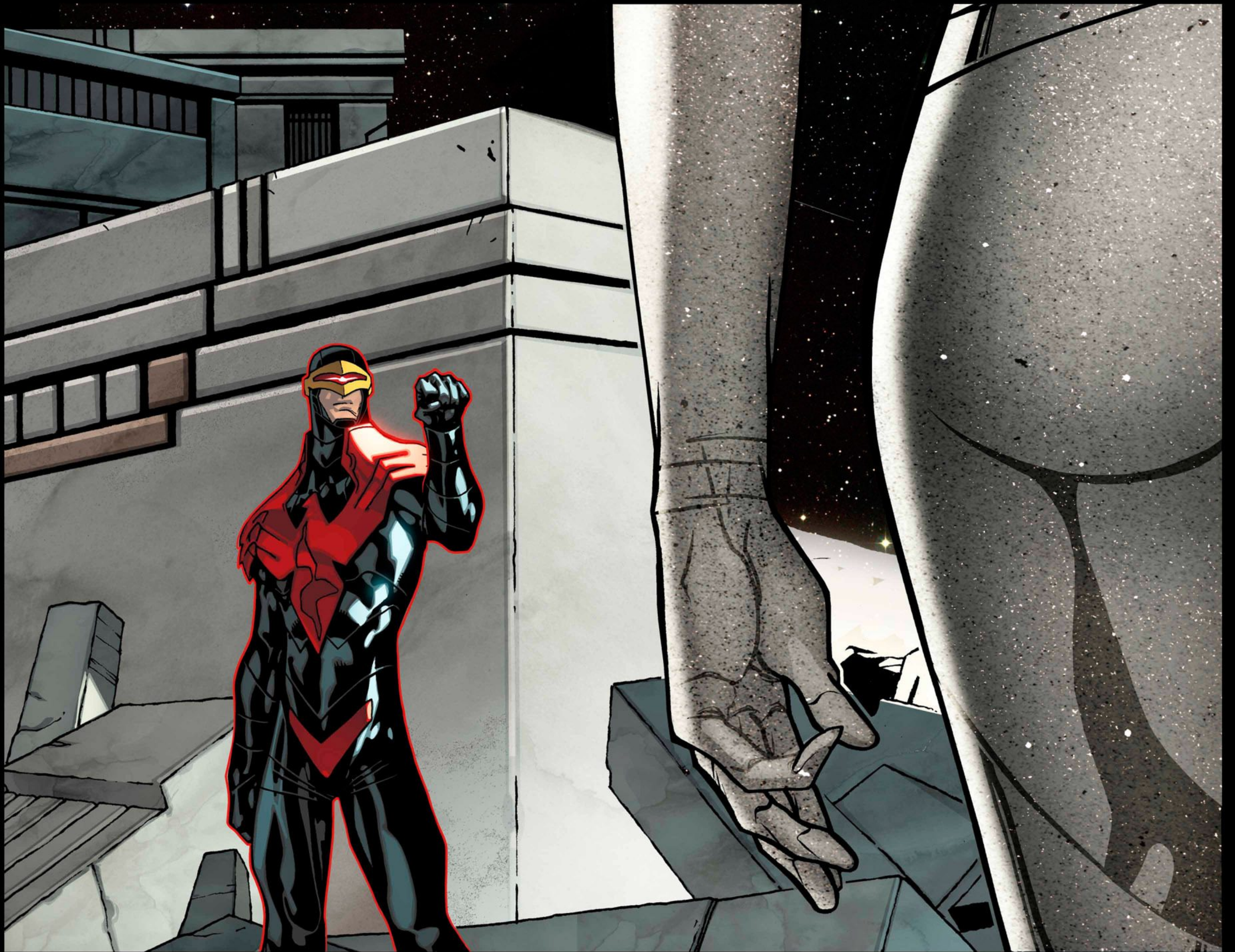
OBVIOUSLY, I CAN'T
FIGURE THIS OUT
ALONE.

I NEED TO *TALK*
TO SOMEONE.



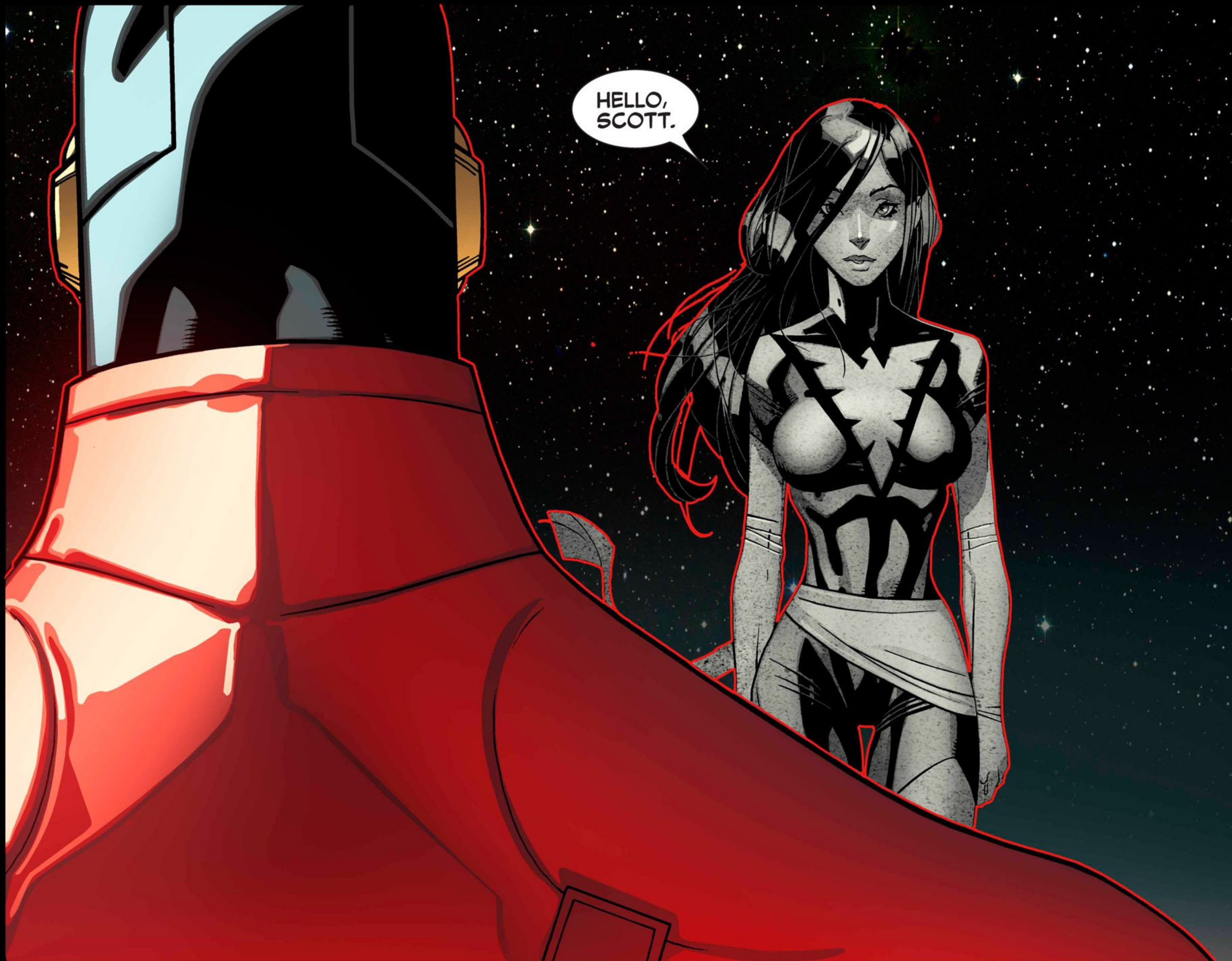




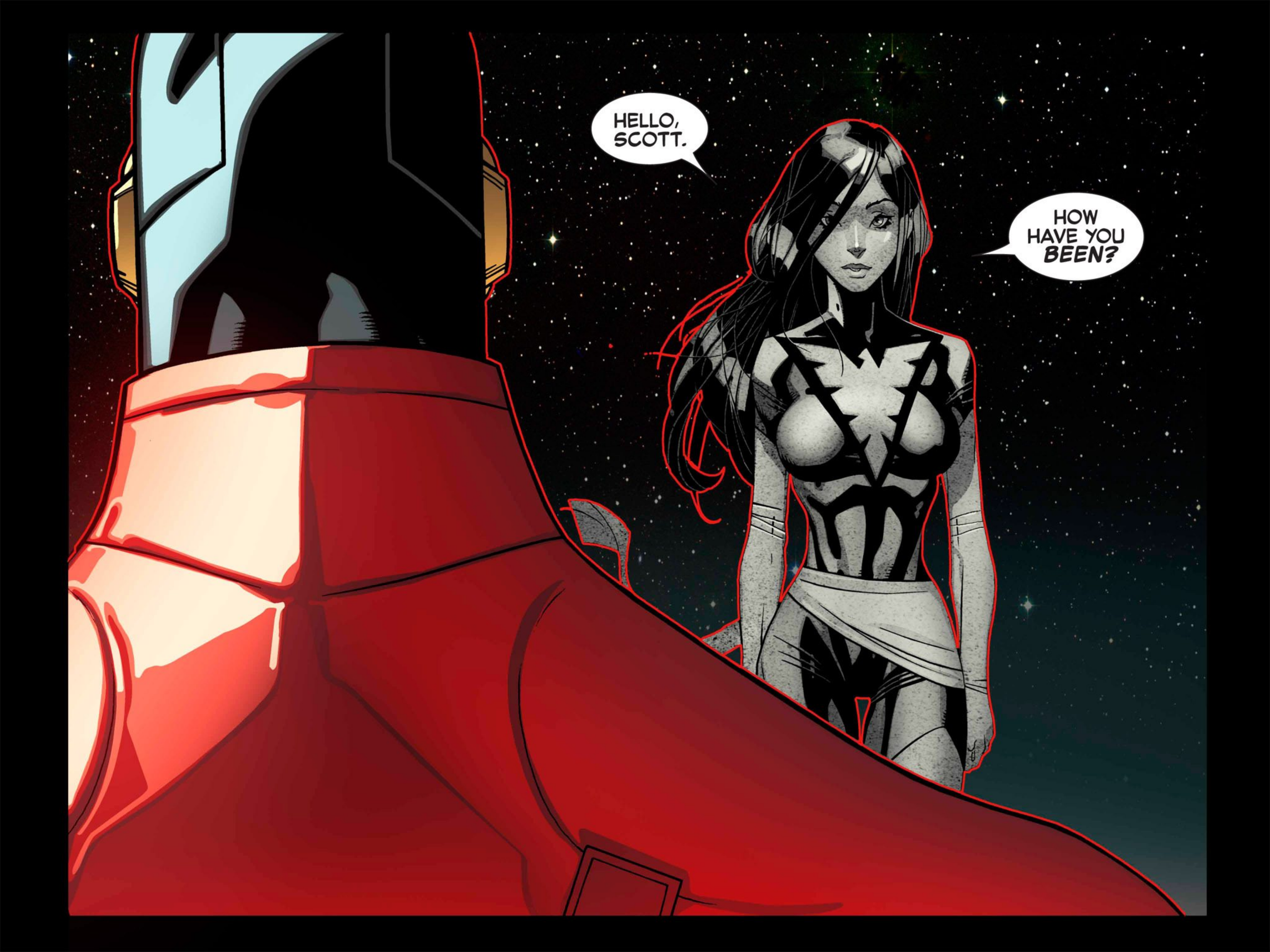






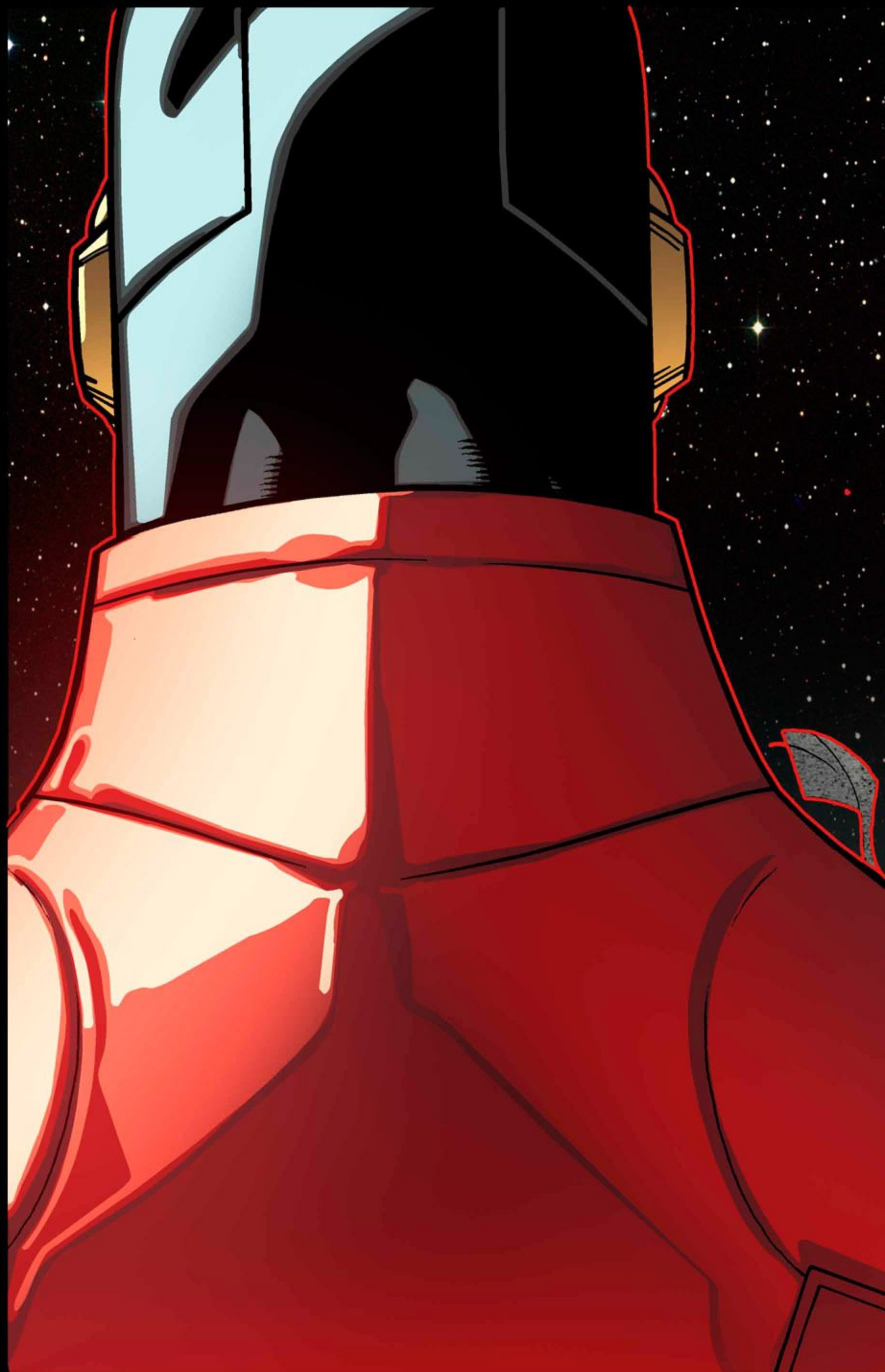


HELLO,
SCOTT.



HELLO,
SCOTT.

HOW
HAVE YOU
BEEEN?



I LIKE THE
COSTUME.

IS IT SUPPOSED
TO REPRESENT YOUR
POWER OR REMIND
YOU OF *ME*?

Cyclops is shown from the waist up, wearing his Phoenix Force suit. The suit is primarily black with red and orange accents, including a large red 'X' on the chest and a red visor. He is standing on a balcony or walkway with a railing, looking towards the right. The background is a dark, starry sky.

I DON'T NEED
REMINDERS,
JEAN.

FIRST LOVES
TEND TO STICK
THAT WAY, DON'T
THEY?

A close-up of Jean Grey's face. She has long, dark hair and is looking down with a somber expression. A single tear is visible on her cheek. The background is a dark, starry sky.

NOT THAT YOU'RE
SENTIMENTAL. IN FACT,
YOU'VE USED THE
PHOENIX FORCE VERY
WELL AND VERY
LOGICALLY...

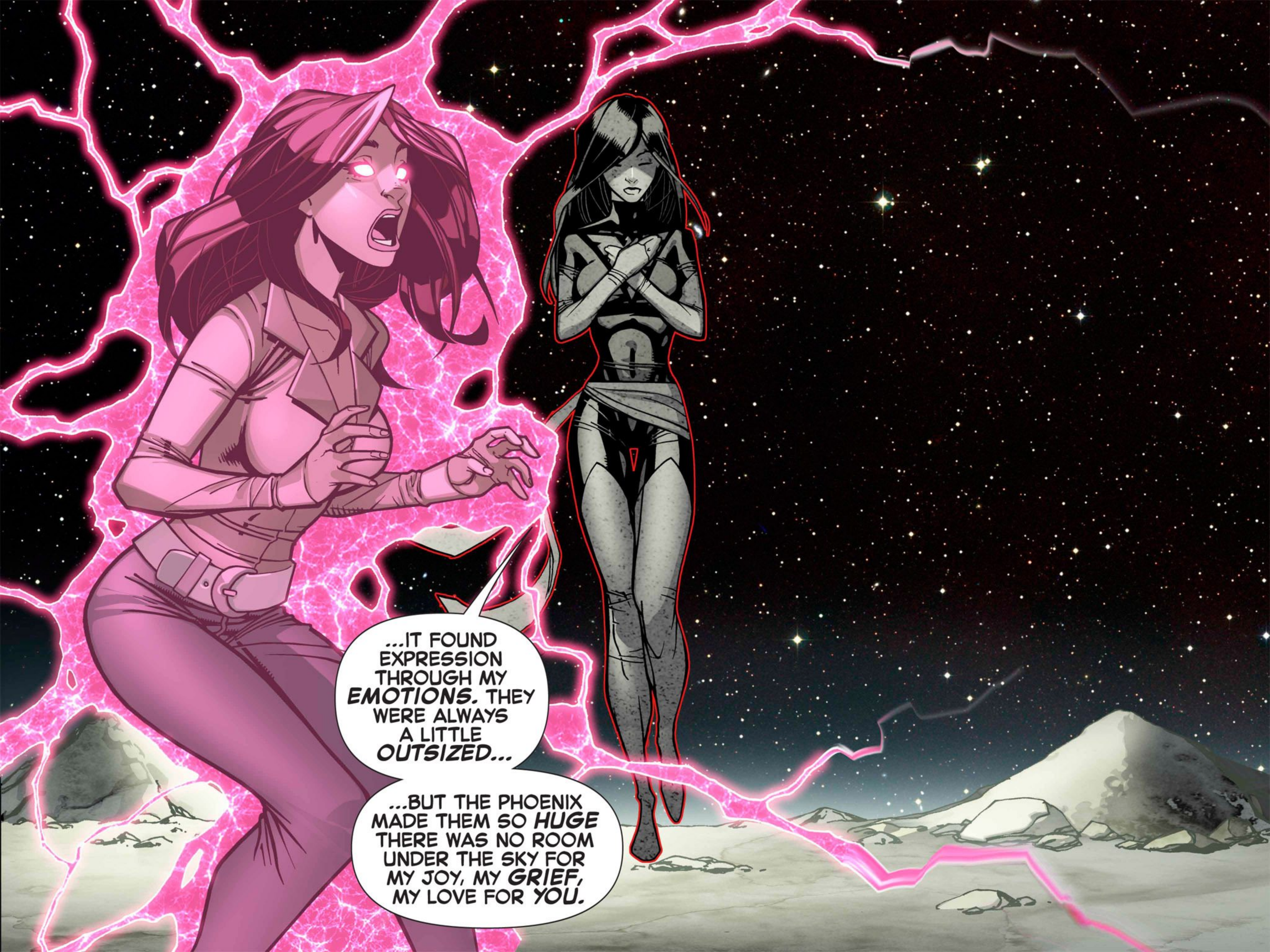
...SO
FAR.



NO ONE KNOWS
QUITE HOW THE
PHOENIX FORCE WORKS
WHEN IT BONDS WITH YOU,
SCOTT. BUT I SUSPECT
THAT, IN ITS WAY, IT
MOSTLY...**AMPLIFIES**
YOU.

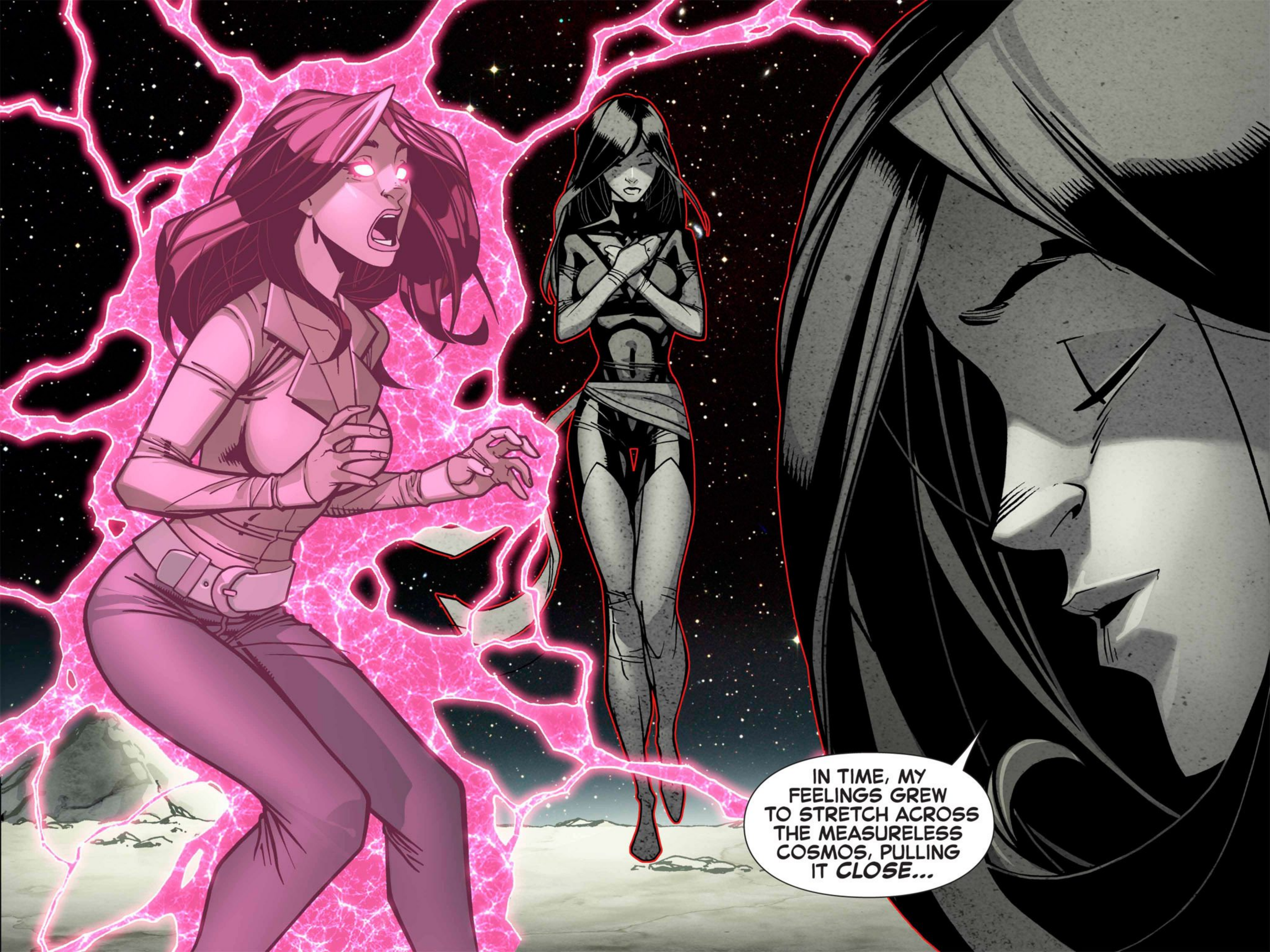
WHEN
THE PHOENIX
REBIRTHED
ME...



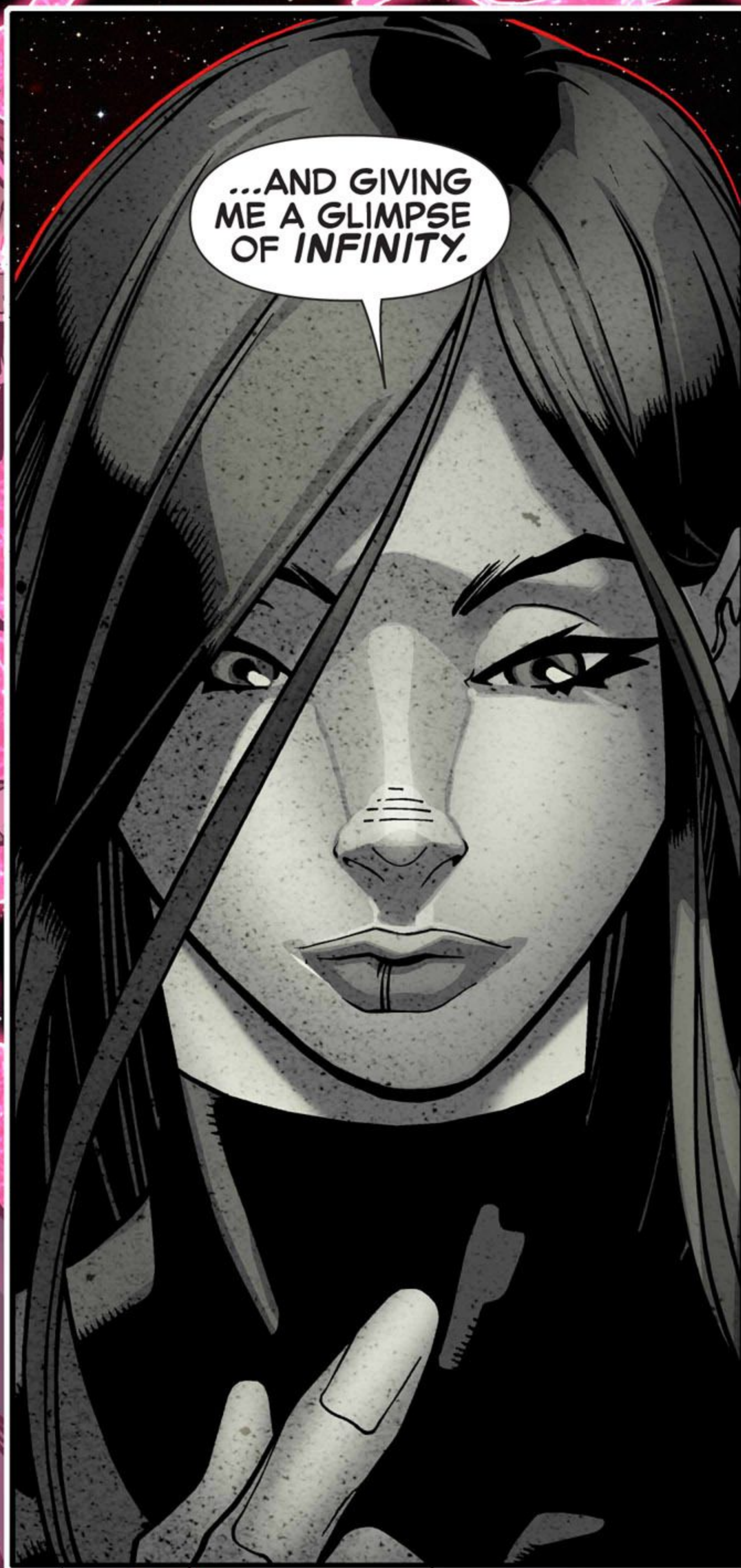


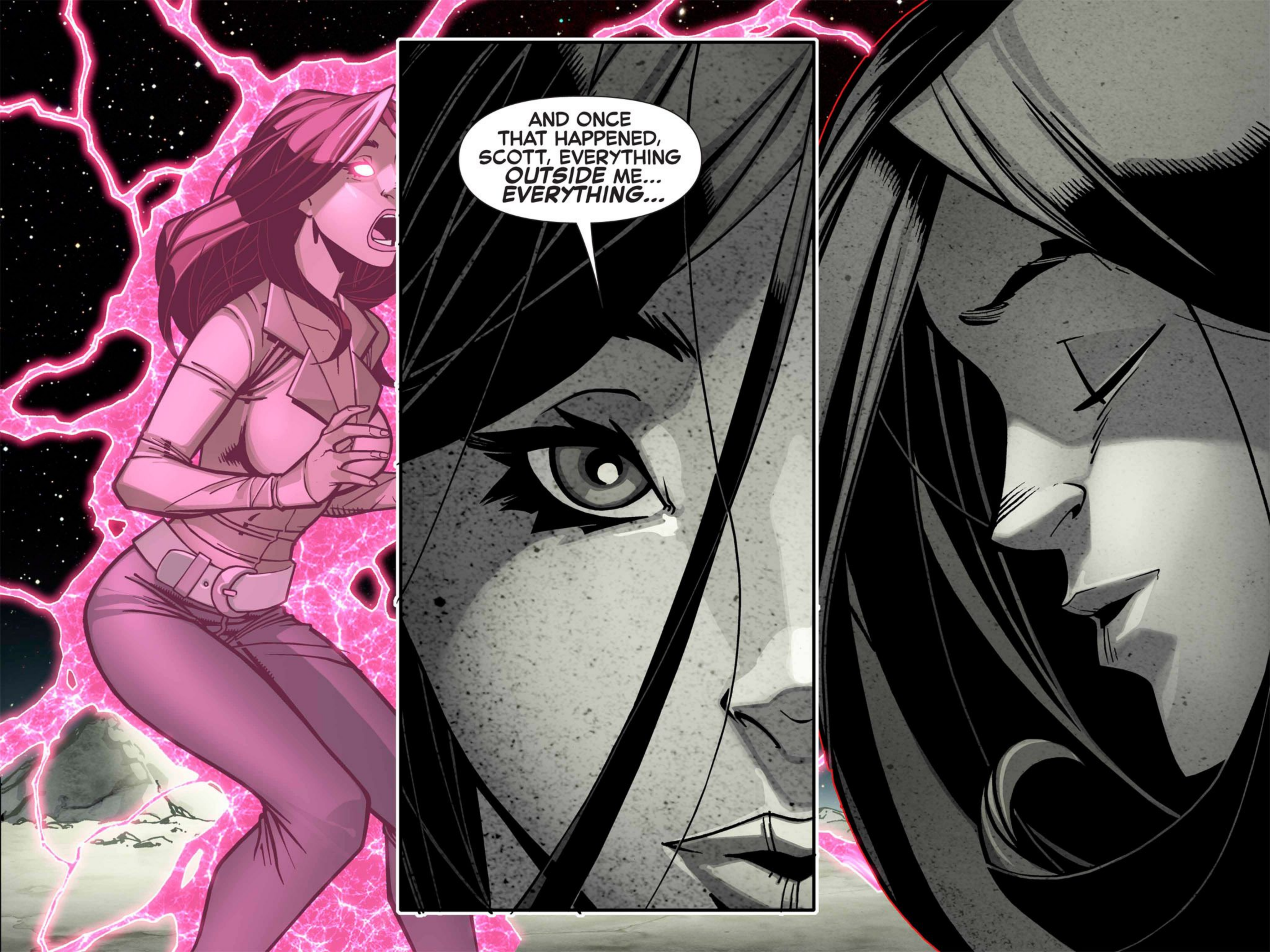
...IT FOUND
EXPRESSION
THROUGH MY
EMOTIONS. THEY
WERE ALWAYS
A LITTLE
OUTSIZED...

...BUT THE PHOENIX
MADE THEM SO **HUGE**
THERE WAS NO ROOM
UNDER THE SKY FOR
MY JOY, MY **GRIEF**,
MY LOVE FOR YOU.

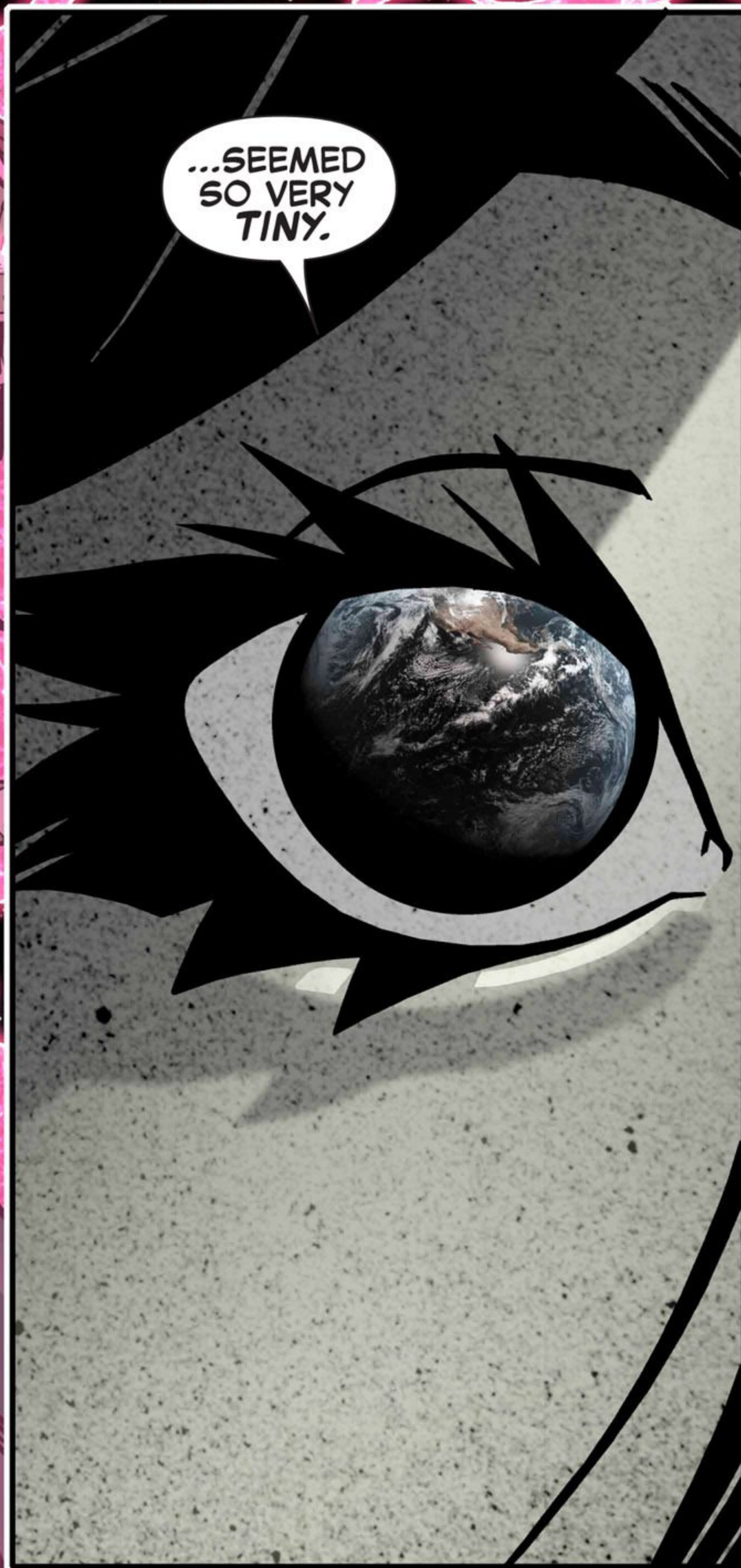


IN TIME, MY
FEELINGS GREW
TO STRETCH ACROSS
THE MEASURELESS
COSMOS, PULLING
IT **CLOSE...**

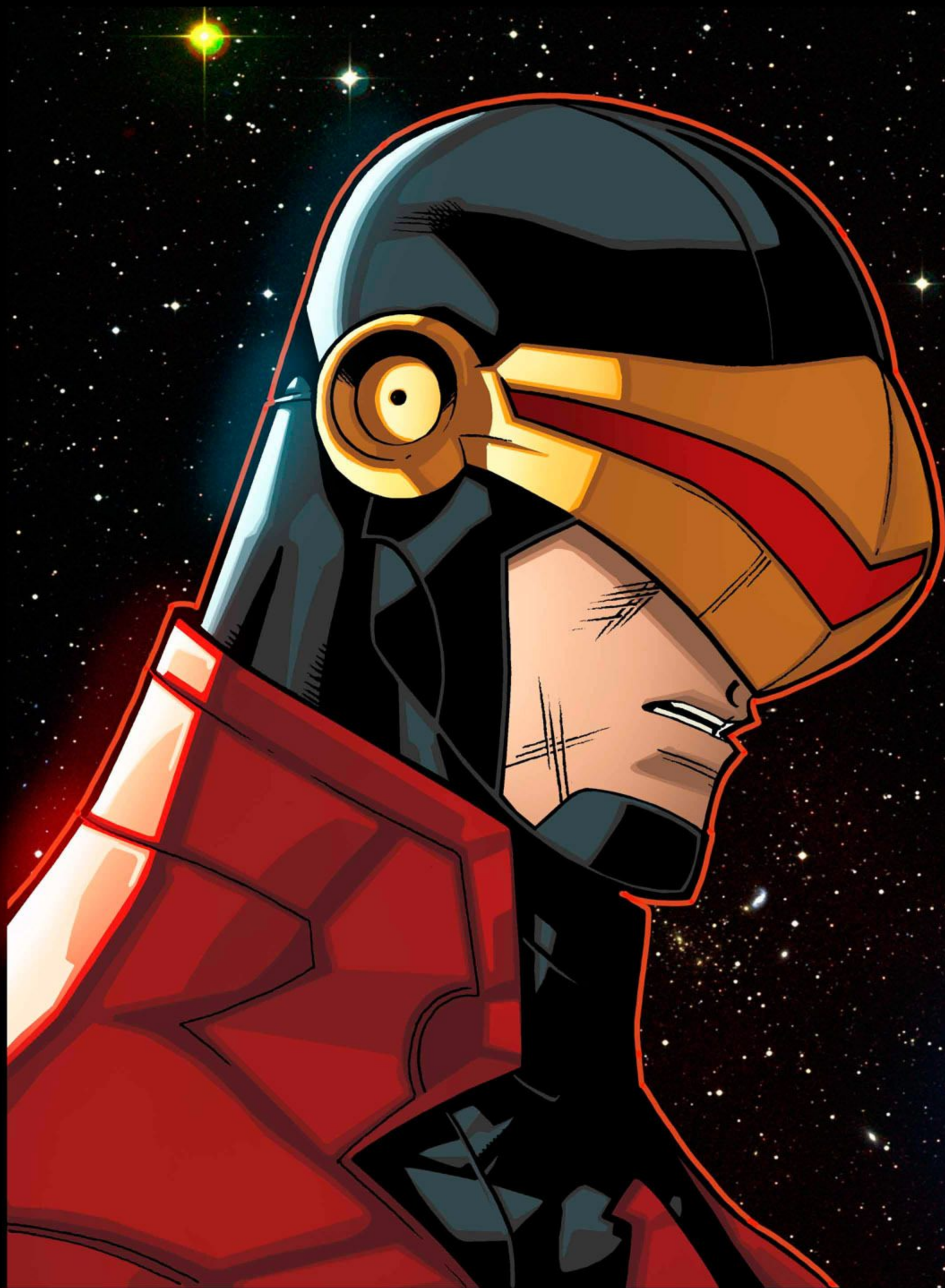




AND ONCE
THAT HAPPENED,
SCOTT, EVERYTHING
OUTSIDE ME...
EVERYTHING...







THAT WAS YOUR
EXPERIENCE. BUT I'VE
ALWAYS BEEN MORE
CONTROLLED THAN YOU.
THAN JUST ABOUT ANYONE.
YOU USED TO SAY THAT
I INVENTED
REPRESSION.

IF ANYONE
CAN HOLD THE
PHOENIX FORCE
IN--

COME ON,
SCOTT.



IT'S NOT ABOUT
LOSING **CONTROL**.
IT'S ABOUT LOSING
PERSPECTIVE. LOSING
YOURSELF.

IN YOUR CASE,
LOSING THE **EMOTIONAL**
MEMORY OF ALL THE
STRUGGLES AND INJUSTICES
THAT **DEFINE** YOU TO
THIS **DAY**.



IT'S NOT ABOUT
LOSING **CONTROL**.
IT'S ABOUT LOSING
PERSPECTIVE. LOSING
YOURSELF.

IN YOUR CASE,
LOSING THE **EMOTIONAL**
MEMORY OF ALL THE
STRUGGLES AND INJUSTICES
THAT **DEFINE** YOU TO
THIS **DAY**.

THAT'S WHY
YOU CAME HERE,
SCOTT. TO **TEST**
YOURSELF.

TO SEE IF YOUR
SOUL COULD STILL
CONNECT TO THE SINGLE
MOST TRAUMATIC MOMENT
OF UNCONTROLLED
EMOTION YOU'VE EVER
EXPERIENCED.



IT'S NOT ABOUT
LOSING **CONTROL**.
IT'S ABOUT LOSING
PERSPECTIVE. LOSING
YOURSELF.

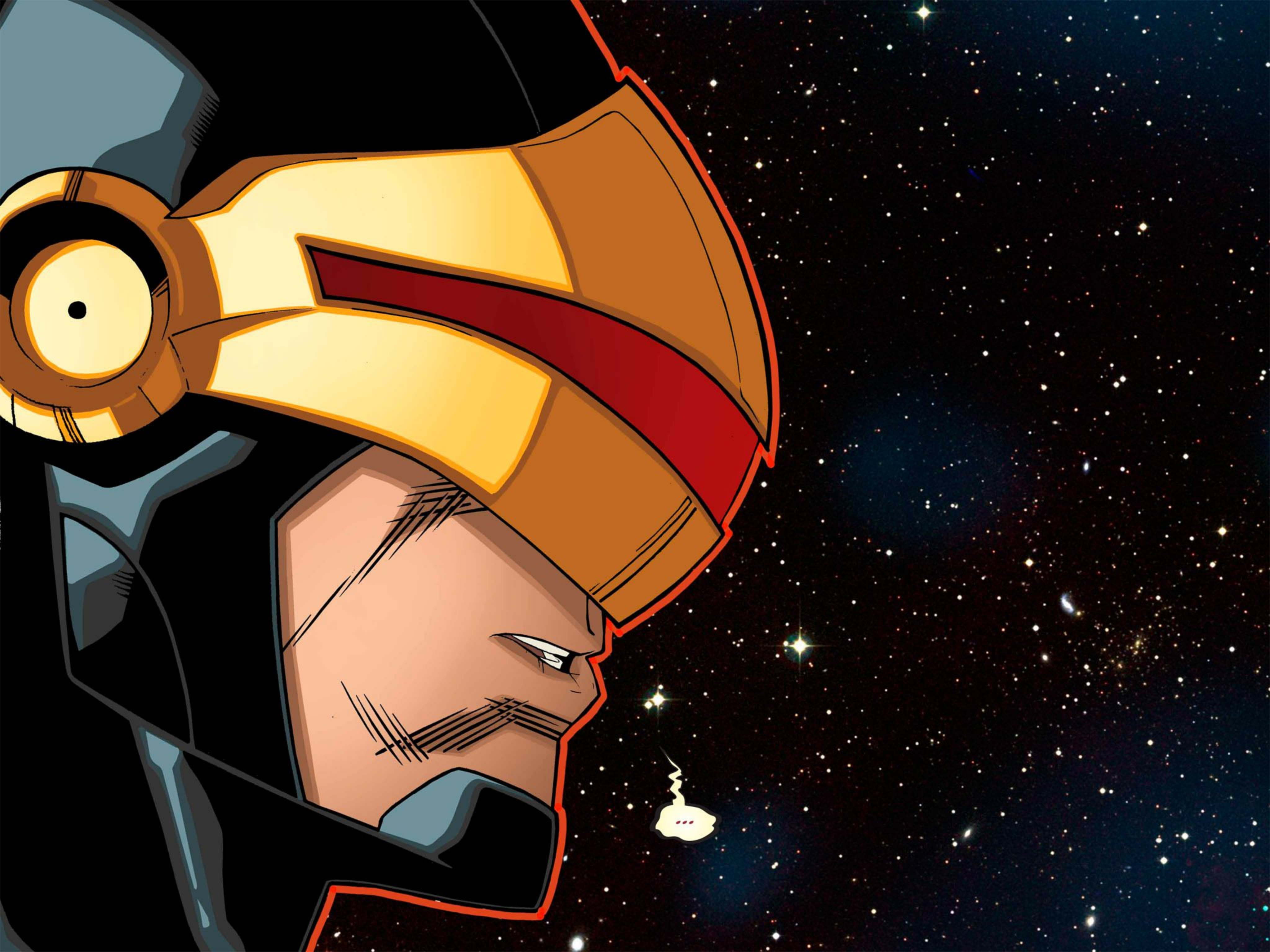
IN YOUR CASE,
LOSING THE **EMOTIONAL**
MEMORY OF ALL THE
STRUGGLES AND INJUSTICES
THAT **DEFINE** YOU TO
THIS **DAY**.

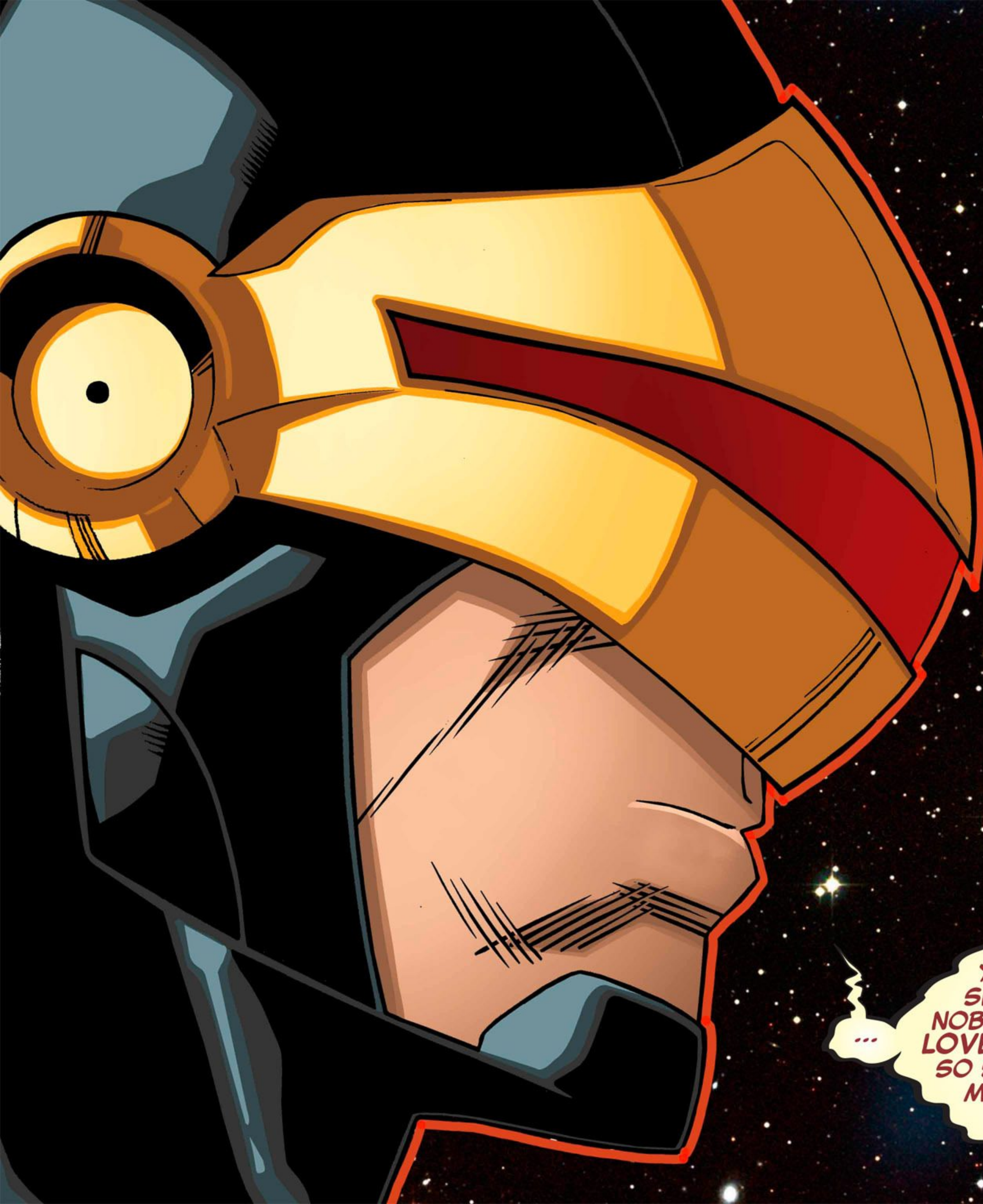
THAT'S WHY
YOU CAME HERE,
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TO SEE IF YOUR
SOUL COULD STILL
CONNECT TO THE SINGLE
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OF UNCONTROLLED
EMOTION YOU'VE EVER
EXPERIENCED.



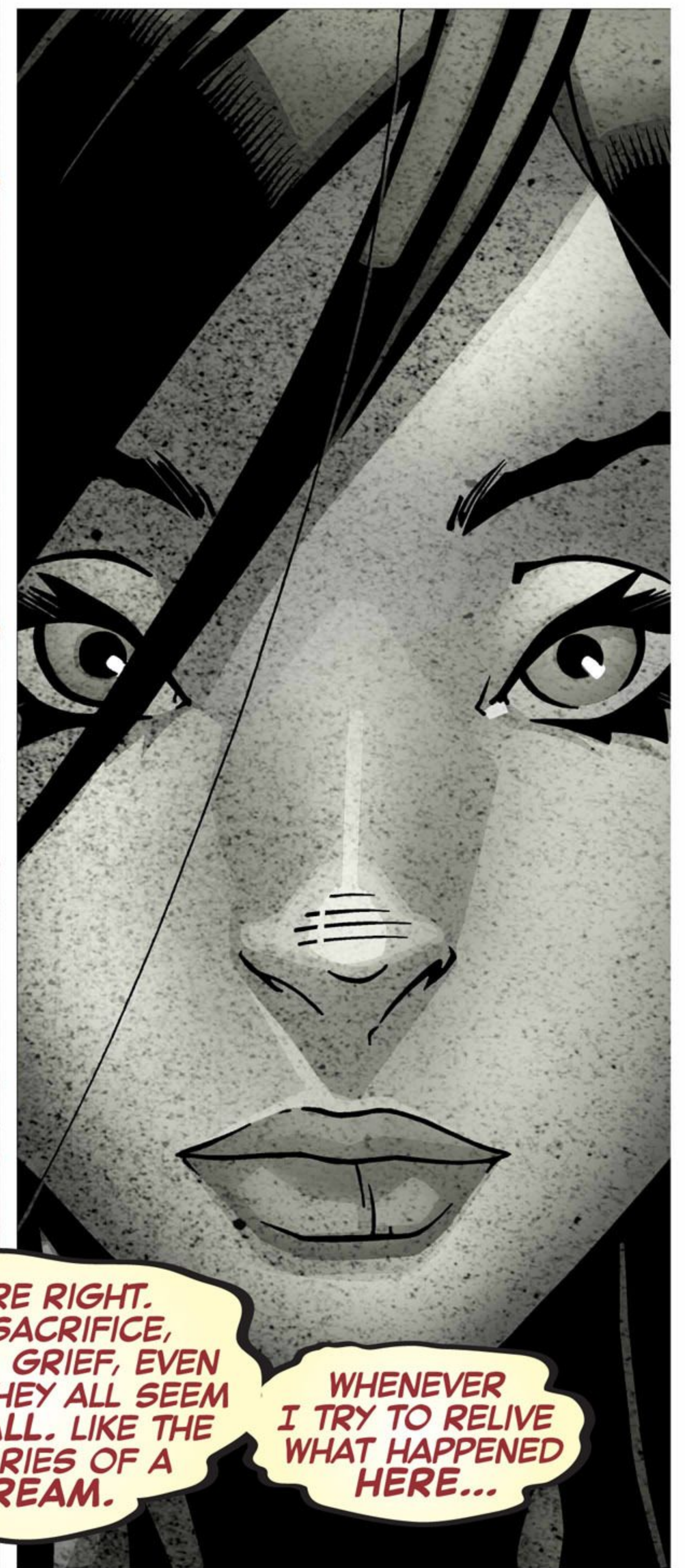
AND IT
CAN'T.





...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
SELF-SACRIFICE,
NOBILITY, GRIEF, EVEN
LOVE...THEY ALL SEEM
SO SMALL. LIKE THE
MEMORIES OF A
DREAM.

WHENEVER
I TRY TO RELIVE
WHAT HAPPENED
HERE...



SCOTT!



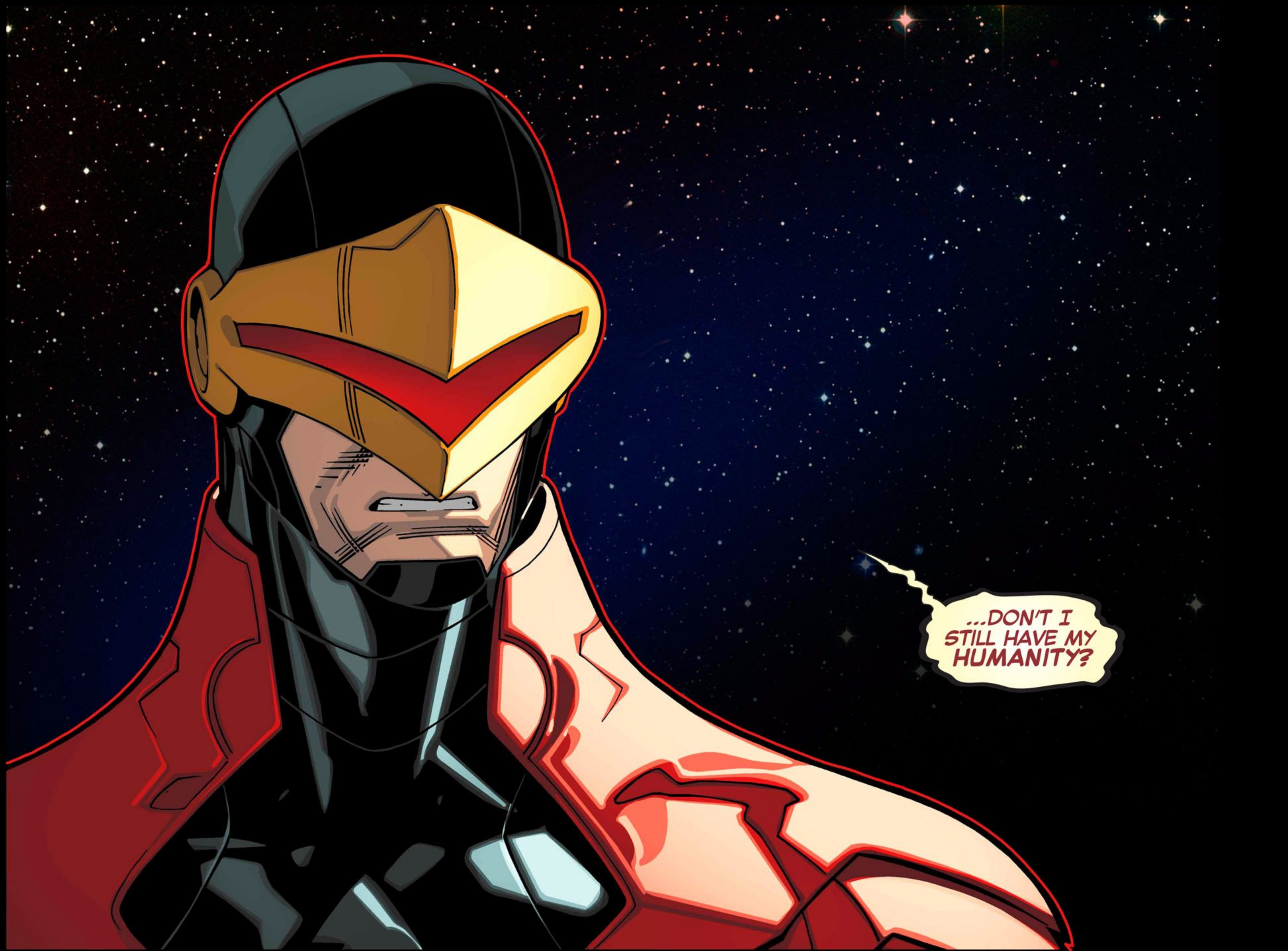
JEAN!





...I TELL MYSELF
THAT YOUR--THAT
HER SACRIFICE WAS
PROFOUND. BUT TO
BE HONEST, IT FEELS
PETTY.

WHAT DOES
THAT MEAN?
SHOULD I WORRY?
DESPITE THIS
POWER, THIS
OMNIPOTENCE...



IF YOU
DID...





IF YOU
DID...

...WOULD YOU
HAVE RECREATED
A CORPSE OUT
OF MOON
DUST?





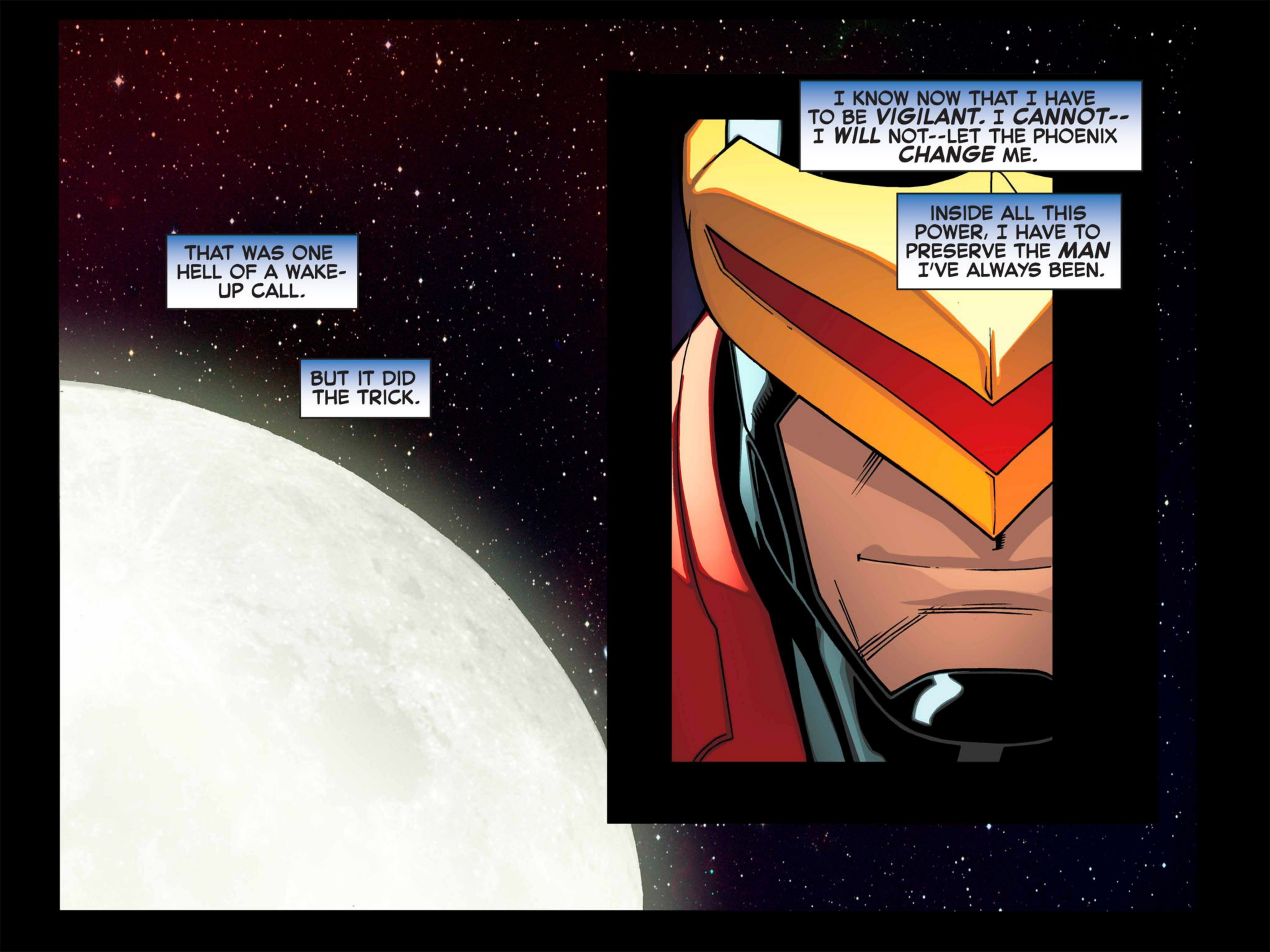




THAT WAS ONE
HELL OF A WAKE-
UP CALL.

BUT IT DID
THE TRICK.





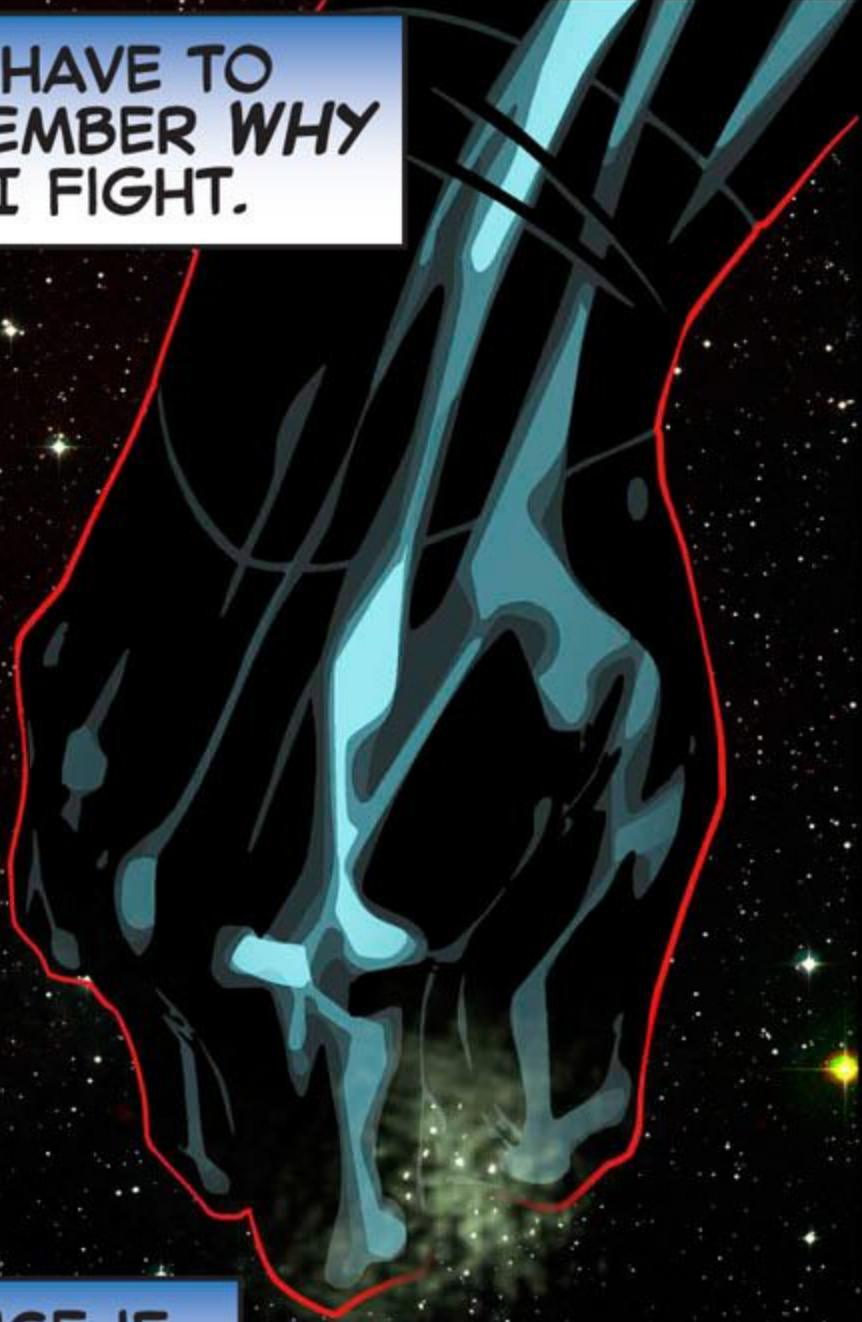
THAT WAS ONE
HELL OF A WAKE-
UP CALL.

BUT IT DID
THE TRICK.



I KNOW NOW THAT I HAVE
TO BE **VIGILANT**. I **CANNOT--**
I **WILL NOT--**LET THE PHOENIX
CHANGE ME.

INSIDE ALL THIS
POWER, I HAVE TO
PRESERVE THE **MAN**
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN.



I HAVE TO
REMEMBER *WHY*
I FIGHT.

BECAUSE IF
I LOSE SIGHT
OF *THAT...*



I KNOW NOW THAT I HAVE
TO BE *VIGILANT*. I *CANNOT--*
I *WILL NOT--* LET THE PHOENIX
CHANGE ME.

INSIDE ALL THIS
POWER, I HAVE TO
PRESERVE THE *MAN*
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN.

...WHAT'S IT ALL
BEEN *FOR?*

...IN A HANDFUL OF DUST

**MARK
WAID**

CO-PLOT & SCRIPT

**YVES
BIGEREL**

CO-PLOT AND STORYBOARDS

**CARLO
BARBERI**

PENCILS & INKS

**MARTE
GRACIA**

COLORS

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